## A JOURNAL OF HIGHWAY RESEARCH

FEDERAL WORKS AGENCY
PUBLIC ROADS ADMINISTRATION

VOL. 21, NO. 11

V

JANUARY 1941



A SECTION OF US 10 IN MONTANA

For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C.

See page 2 of cover for prices

TRANSPORTATION LIBRARY

## PUBLIC ROADS

►►► A Journal of Highway Research

Issued by the

## FEDERAL WORKS AGENCY PUBLIC ROADS ADMINISTRATION

D. M. BEACH, Editor

Volume 21, No. 11

January 1941

Page

203

The reports of research published in this magazine are necessarily qualified by the conditions of the tests from which the data are obtained. Whenever it is deemed possible to do so, generalizations are drawn from the results of the tests; and, unless this is done, the conclusions formulated must be considered as specifically pertinent only to described conditions.

## In This Issue

Applications of Automatic Traffic Recorder Data in Highway Planning . . . . .

THE PUBLIC ROADS ADMINISTRATION - - - - - - Willard Building, Washington, D. C. REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS - - - - - - - - Federal Building, Civic Center, San Francisco, Calif.

## DISTRICT OFFICES

DISTRICT	No.	1.	Oregon,	Washington, a	nd	Montana.	
						D OF DUL D 1 10	

DISTRICT No. 2. California, Arizona, and Nevada.

Federal Building, Civic Center San Francisco, Calif

DISTRICT No. 3. Colorado, New Mexico, and Wyoming.
254 New Customhouse, Denver, Col

DISTRICT No. 4. Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

907 Post Office Building, St. Paul, Minn.

DISTRICT No. 5. Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska.

DISTRICT No. 6. Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas.
Room 502, United States Courthouse. Fort Worth, Tex.

DISTRICT No. 7. Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, and Michigan.
South Chicago Post Office Building. Chicago, Ill.

DISTRICT No. 8. Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Mississippi, and Tennessee.

Post Office Building, Montgomery, Ala.

DISTRICT No. 9. Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

76 State St., Albany, N. Y.

DISTRICT No. 10. Delaware, Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and District of Columbia.

Willard Building, Washington, D. C.

DISTRICT No. 11. Alaska.

Room 419, Federal and Territorial Building, Juneau, Alaska.

DISTRICT No. 12. Idaho and Utah.

Federal Building, Ogden, Utah.

t a c r g e o ti u ti

DISTRICT No. 14. North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia.

Montgomery Building, Spartanburg, S. C.

Because of the necessarily limited edition of this publication it is impossible to distribute it free to any person or institution other than State and county officials actually engaged in planning or constructing public highways, instructors in highway engineering, and periodicals upon an exchange basis. At the present time additions to the free mailing list can be made only as vacancies occur. Those desiring to obtain PUBLIC ROADS can do so by sending \$1 per year (foreign subscription \$1.50), or 10 cents per single copy, to the Superintendent of Documents, United States Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C.

## APPLICATIONS OF AUTOMATIC TRAFFIC RECORDER DATA IN HIGHWAY PLANNING

BY THE DIVISION OF HIGHWAY TRANSPORT, PUBLIC ROADS ADMINISTRATION

Reported by L. E. PEABODY, Senior Highway Economist, and O. K. NORMANN, Associate Highway Economist

NLY a few years ago information with regard to the volume of motor-vehicle traffic by hours throughout the year was available only at a few bridges, where it was obtained incidental to the collection of tolls. Usually these data were summarized and reported only as an annual total or, at best, subtotals were obtainable by months. The need for complete traffic flow information was recognized, but until the State-wide highway planning surveys were begun no concerted effort was made to obtain such data on anything approaching a Nation-wide scale. Today, at more than 500 points throughout the country, and in nearly every State, traffic-flow information is being obtained by means of permanently installed traffic counters. At many hundreds of additional points this information is collected by means of portable traffic counters. The cost of this mechanical counting is but a small fraction of the cost of manual counting.

Since detailed traffic data are so recently available

est

ier

ng.

ur.

py,

and the record correspondingly short, it is quite certain that not all of the practical uses of these data have developed. Indeed the record is so short that an adequate study of some applications of the data is not possible. Nevertheless, it is clear that the principal uses of these data are as follows: (1) In measuring the time during which a section of highway is congested, and the fraction of the year's traffic that moves under conditions of congestion; (2) in compiling a traffic record, obtained under widely varying climatic, geographic, and economic conditions, essential in planning extensive traffic surveys such as those forming a part of the highway planning surveys, and in which some traffic information is obtained for every mile of publicly used highway; (3) in acquiring knowledge of the variations in traffic volume required in expanding short traffic counts covering but a small fraction of the year

Automatic traffic recorders are being used in 46 States to obtain continuous records of traffic flow at more than 500 locations. Analysis of data from typical stations throughout the United States shows that there was an extremely wide variation in the ratios between traffic for maximum days or hours and the average annual daily traffic, but this variation was considerably less at locations in the southern States as compared with those in northern States. Traffic on the maximum day was normally 233 percent and the maximum hour 25.4 percent of the annual average daily traffic. It is uneconomical to design the average highway for a greater hourly volume than the value exceeded during the 30 peak hours each year, and little will be saved in the construction cost and a great deal lost in expediting the movement of traffic if the design will not handle the volume exceeded during the 50 peak hours. However, the variation in traffic flow between locations is such that detailed data are necessary for a complete engineering analysis of the traffic facilities required at any particular location.

Tests of various schedules of operation that are used in highway planning surveys indicate that eighteen

8-hour counts properly scheduled throughout the year produce results within practical limits of accuracy; that the short count schedule by single hours, or shorter periods, is not as accurate, and its use is limited to relatively compact areas such as a city where time loss

and cost of travel may be reduced.

A study of the invariance in seasonal and other types of traffic variation over a period of several years provides a measure of the limitations in the use of factors in estimating annual traffic from observations covering but a small period of time, possibly a few hours. The rather remarkable uniformity in such factors provides considerable confidence in the accuracy of the estimates.

As the traffic records accumulate they will permit an analysis of the traffic trends at a large number of points widely distributed throughout the country and should furnish data useful in setting up regional or national business indices. The relatively brief record now available has already proved of value in making estimates of traffic increases on major segments of the highways and streets of the Nation.

to obtain reasonably accurate estimates of the traffic total for the year; and (4) the traffic record is of vital importance in the study of traffic trends and their relationships to economic factors and to probable future traffic. It is mainly with regard to the latter use that the record is inadequate; and this deficiency is being reduced as the records accumulate with each passing month and year.

The automatic traffic counters used in the Statewide highway planning surveys are of two general types; one designed to be installed permanently at key locations and referred to as a fixed-type recorder; and a portable counter used in obtaining short counts at a large number of widely separated locations.

## AUTOMATIC RECORDERS YIELD HOURLY RECORDS OF TRAFFIC FLOW

The fixed-type machine 1 is much larger, more expensive, and more de-pendable than the portable traffic counter. The fixed-type machines are designed to count passing vehicles without counting

pedestrians. Two parallel beams of light approximately 30 inches center to center, directed across the roadway upon photoelectric cells, must be interrupted simultaneously to operate the counting mechanism. Pedestrians, who interrupt only one beam at a time, are not counted by the machine. Every hour, on the hour, these machines stamp on a record tape the day, hour, and cumulative counter reading, thus producing an hourly record of the number of vehicles passing the location. The cost of one of these machines is approximately \$400 and the average cost of installation is approximately \$125 per machine. A survey of the operating costs in 1938 for all States using this equipment gave the average cost of operating one fixed-type automatic recorder at a rural location for a month as follows:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The May 1938 issue of PUBLIC ROADS carries a detailed description of these machines.

Overhead	. \$4. 87
Supervision	_ 3. 51
Maintenance:	
Labor \$7. 6-	4
Subsistence 1. 7	8
Travel 8. 8	6
Power 4. 3	
Supplies, etc	8
Total maintenance	
Preparation of records	_ 10. 09
Grand total	43 99

The portable-type traffic counters used in the planning surveys consist of two general types, the recording counter and the cumulative or nonrecording counter.2 The recording-type machine produces records by printing or photographing the cumulative counter reading on a record tape every hour on the hour. The cumulative counter enables a record to be obtained only of the total traffic passing the machine between readings by an observer. In a few instances, cumulative counters have been equipped with a clock that starts and stops the machine at predetermined times, thus eliminating the necessity for placing the machine and picking it up at a definite time.

The operating mechanisms of the portable counters are of two types—electrically operated and mechanically operated. The majority of the mechanically operated machines are an adaptation of a watch or clock, so arranged that the escapement is operated when the wheels of a vehicle pass over the detector. These counters have generally been referred to as watch-type counters. So far this type of construction has been confined to cumulative counters. However, work is in progress to develop a recording counter that

will be entirely spring operated.

Most of the portable machines now in operation make use of a pneumatic detector consisting of a rubber tube placed across the roadway and a diaphragm of some flexible material at one end of the tube. air impulse produced when each pair of wheels of a vehicle passes over the tube causes the diaphragm to move, which, in turn, either actuates the contacting elements controlling the counting circuit, or operates directly the escapement of the counting mechanism. Other detectors used with portable machines are a photoelectric device using one light beam, and a positive-contact device consisting of two strips of spring steel, enclosed in a waterproof casing, which make contact when pressed together by the wheels of a vehicle passing over them.

The cost of portable counters ranges from \$10 for the watch-type cumulative counter to \$225 for the hourly recording type machine. A number of States have constructed cumulative counters of the electrically operated type at a cost of approximately \$25 per machine, all of which use the pneumatic detector. One State has constructed recording counters using the pneumatic detector at a cost of approximately \$80 per machine. Another State has constructed a portable counter using a photoelectric detector with a photographic recording device at a cost of approximately \$125 per machine.

The portable traffic recorders have not been in use a

 $^2$  A simple counter of this type is described in the January 1939 issue of PUBLIC ROADS.

sufficient length of time for the cost of their operation to have been accurately determined. One difficulty in determining the cost of records is that it depends almost entirely on the distance between stations and the schedule upon which they are operated. One State has reported a total cost of \$1.62 per count for 24-hour counts obtained with the simple cumulative counter. This cost includes salary, mileage, parts, power, and incidentals. Another State reports a total cost of approximately 87 cents per 24-hour count. These figures are for eastern States where stations are close together. The estimated monthly cost of operation (parts, batteries, and incidentals) is \$4 for one of the recording-type portable machines. The operating cost of the cumulative counters is less than that, so it is very evident that the charges for salary and mileage are the major part of the cost of counting traffic with portable traffic counters.

Experimental development and field tests of the automatic traffic counters were carried on throughout 1935, and 84 of the fixed-type machines were placed in operation by the States during 1936. In 1937, 115 additional fixed-type counters were installed; in 1938, 120; in 1939, 168; and up to July 1940, 45 new fixedtype machines were placed in operation. A total of 532 such machines were in operation during July 1940. A complete statement of the record, by States, is given in table 1, and the locations of these machines are indicated in figures 1, 2, and 3.

Locations for the machines were chosen by the States with the assistance of the Public Roads Administration. Detailed knowledge of economic areas within the States and of the character of traffic using individual routes were factors in the selection of locations. Consequently, farm-to-market roads, roads used largely by tourist traffic, and roads upon which intercity commercial traffic is a considerable fraction of total traffic, are included among the locations.

To obtain information regarding the fluctuation of traffic flow on primary highways, automatic traffic counter records for 90 stations located on the main U.S. numbered highways have been analyzed. In selecting record stations for analysis, an attempt was made to include scattered locations so that the figures for annual traffic volumes would cover a wide range and be geographically distributed throughout all sections of the United States. The traffic records for each of the selected stations show the number of vehicles for almost each hour during at least 1 full year.

## FLUCTUATIONS IN TRAFFIC FLOW GREATER IN NORTH THAN IN SOUTH

Table 2 shows the location, the period used for the analysis, and the annual average 24-hour traffic volume for each of the stations. Stations located in 43 States and having annual average 24-hour traffic volumes ranging from 311 to 13,624 vehicles were used.

Figure 4 shows the maximum 24-hour traffic volume at each location during the year, plotted against the annual average 24-hour traffic volume. For any annual volume, there is a large variation in the peak day during the year. For example, the roads with an annual average of about 4,000 vehicles per day have from 6,000 to 18,000 vehicles on the peak day, or a variation of 300 percent. The average shown by the solid line indicates that there is a slight drop from a straight-line relationship as the volume increases. For sections that have annual averages between 2,000 and 4,000 vehicles there is a marked sag in the curve. On an average, the maximum 24-hour traffic volume was 2.45, 2.20, and 2.34 times the annual average 24-hour volume for locations with annual averages below 2,000, between 2,000 and 4,000 and over 4,000 vehicles, respectively.

Table 1.—Number of automatic traffic counters | which started operation in various years

State	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940
Vlabama		9		,	
Arizona		ä		1	*******
Arkansas					
California			11	5	
		10			
Colorado	1		2	3	
Connecticut				20	
lorida	6		4		
leorgia				12	
daho	4				
Ilinois			1	5	
ndiana	4			14	
owa	2		10	12	
ansas	1		3	1.00	********
Centucky	-	4	2	5	*******
ouisiana		2	2	4	*******
Iaine		-	6	4	
laryland		10	1	9	******
Tassachusetts		10		2	11111111
Tichigan	9	0	8		
finnesota	9	2	1	16	
lississippi					
fissouri				10	
AISSOULT		5	7	5	
Iontana			6	8	
ebraska	5		2		
evada	1	7	2	2	
ew Hampshire		3			
ew Mexico	9		1		
ew York			12	9	
orth Carolina			4		
orth Dakota	3		2	4	
hio	2		5		
klahoma	9				
regon	2	3			
ennsylvania	ī	20	Y	1	
hode Island		4			
outh Carolina		1	6	0	
outh Dakota		5	0	41	
ennessee		4			
exas	4	10	2	14	
tah	2	10		14	
tan	2	********	4		
ermont		1		3	
irginia			4		
Vashington	3	7			
Vest Virginia	4			7	
isconsin	4		8		
yoming			3		
Total	84	115	120	168	
Cumulative total	84	199	319	487	5

<sup>1</sup> Machines operating in July 1940.

e

35

ne

11-

IV

re

a

lie

Table 2.—Location of automatic traffic recorders used to obtain data for study of fluctuation in traffic density

		Location	Period	Annual	
State	State's recorder station No.	United States route No.	From-	То-	average 24-hour traffic volume
Alabama	{2 4	72 78	1- 1-39 12-25-37	12-31-39 12-24-38	531 1, 073
Arizona	{1	60, 70, 80	7- 7-39	7-6-40	7, 174
Arkansas	11	60 and 89	1-28-39	1-27-40 12-31-39	1, 743
California	{1	99	7-10-37	7- 9-38	5, 815
Colorado	(3	99. 85-87. 85	2-20-37 2-27-37 6-26-38	2-19-38 2-26-38 6-25-39	2, 281 4, 334 5, 472
Connecticut	6 and 7	Merritt Parkway	3-31-39 3-31-39	3-30-40 3-30-40	13, 624
Florida	1	90. 41. 90.	11-27-38 1- 1-38 5-15-37	11-26-38 12-31-38 5-14-38	8, 313 749 1, 668 3, 365
Georgia	12	41 and 411	1- 1-39 1- 1-39	12-31-39 12-31-39	3, 238 632

Table 2.—Location of automatic traffic recorders used to obtain data for study of fluctuation in traffic density—Continued

		Location	Perio	Annual	
State	State's recorder station No.	United States route No.	From-	То	average 24-hour traffic volume
F1.3	1	16	1- 1-38	12-31-38	2, 438
Idaho	3	30	4- 3-37 1- 1-38	4- 2-38 12-31-38	3, 08, 2, 290
Illinois	1	45 66 50	9-27-36 1-24-37 12-18-37	9-26-37 1-23-38 12-17-38	4, 05 3, 93 3, 210
Indiana	2A 42A 59A 72A	20	8-28-37 7- 3-37 1-15-38 1-15-38	12-17-38 8-27-38 7- 2-38 1-14-39 1-14-39	3, 496 3, 07 3, 12 2, 293
Iowa	1601	65-69. 65-69.	12-19-36 1- 1-38	12-18-37 12-31-38	3, 290 3, 539
Kansas	{3 5	508	2-18-39	2-17-40	2, 059
	(1	24 and 40 79-80	8-14-38 12-25-37	8-13-39 12-24-38	2, 18; 3, 304
Maine Maryland	2	90	4-24-37 2- 5-38	4-23-38 2- 4-39	4, 226 1, 287
Maryland	(2	40	4-3-37	4- 2-38	3, 030
	( AM	40	1-22-38 4-30-38	1-21-39 4-29-39	7, 250 7, 363
Massachusetts	lana	6	7-21-39	7-20-40	6, 476
Michigan	1678	23	10- 2-37 1- 1-39	10- 1-38 12-31-39	3, 151 1, 200
Minnesota	157	212-169 10-52 and 169	3-20-37 9-11-37	3-19-38	4,866
Willinesoca	157 159 175	52	7- 3-37	9-10-38 7- 2-38	3, 730 87:
Missouri		54 66	7-17-37 1-23-39	7-16-38 1-22-40	1, 708 5, 220
Wyoming	/205		5-19-39	5-18-40	1.309
	IA4	30 10-12	1- 1-39 10-29-38	12-31-39 10-28-39	1, 257
Montana	\A7	91	6-30-39	6-29-40 1- 7-39 1- 7-39	495
Nebraska	5	30	1- 8-38 1- 8-38	1- 7-39	1, 619 2, 128
Nevada	{101	40	11- 6-37	11- 5-38	1,469
New Hampshire		40	6- 5-37 9-18-37	6- 4-38 9-17-38	758 1, 360
	J <sub>6</sub>	85-285	6-12-37	6-11-38	1, 216
New Mexico	7	66. 70-80 54-70.	1-15-38 8- 7-37	1-14-39 8- 6-38	1, 574 1, 461
New York		54-70	1- 8-38 12-31-38	1- 7-39 12-30-39	751
North Carolina	5-1	29 19 and 23.	1- 1-39 2-25-39	12-30-39 12-31-39 2-24-40	4, 458
	(102	19 and 23	2-25-39 2- 1-39	2-24-40 1-31-40	4, 296 2, 546 356
North Dakota	103	2	10-18-37	10-17-38	352
Ohio	25	42 25-68	4-12-39 2-18-39	4-11-40 2-17-40	3, 645 3, 928
Oklahoma	{1	66-69	5-15-37 2-27-37	5-14-38	2, 111 2, 259
Oregon	Rowena	30	2-27-37 11-27-37	2-26-38 11-26-38	2, 259 1, 261
	(3).	20	11-20-37	11_10_20	4 305
Pennsylvania	4	6	7-24-37	11-19-38 7-23-38	4, 395 1, 231
Rhode Island	2 {2 105	1-A 1	6- 4-38 12- 4-37	6- 3-39 12- 3-38	1 931
South Carolina	105	1-A 1 15-52 29 14-16	2-20-37	2-19-38	1, 583 3, 936
South Dakota	101		5-15-37	5-14-38 12-30-39	982 479
Tennessee	1	31W	12-31-38 4-21-39	4-20-40	3, 425
Torac	∫4	9U	7- 7-39 1- 1-38	7- 6-40 12-31-38	9, 053 4, 049
Texas	5	77-81 80	12-19-36 3-20-37	12-18-37	2, 427 875
Utah	f301	81-83. 40. 50-91.	11-13-37	3-19-38 11-12-38	1,766
Vermont	302	50-91	7-10-37	7- 9-38	3, 443
Virginia	A-12-2	1	11-28-36 6-26-37	11-27-37 6-25-38	1, 615 6, 668
v it gittita	14A	58	1-31-39	1-30-40	2, 429
Washington	\$1 3	99 99, 410, 101 99	12-28-37 9-11-37	12-27-38 9-10-38	3, 590 3, 385
Washington	14	99	12-11-37	12-10-38	3, 479
Wissensin	1110	1041	4-10-37 1- 8-38	4- 9-38 1- 7-39	3, 233 5, 614
Wisconsin	2 and 3	10 and 12	1- 9-37	1- 8-38	1, 632

<sup>1</sup> State route.

An investigation of the surface width at each location showed that all stations with annual averages below 3,400 vehicles had 2 traffic lanes. As the annual average increased above 3,400, the relative number of sections wider than 2 lanes increased until at 4,500 vehicles practically all sections had more than 2 lanes. It, therefore, seems that the sag in the curve was due to a tendency for some drivers to avoid heavily traveled 2-lane highways on days of peak traffic.

A classification of the stations by their geographic location showed that at stations in the North, where there usually is considerable snow and ice each winter

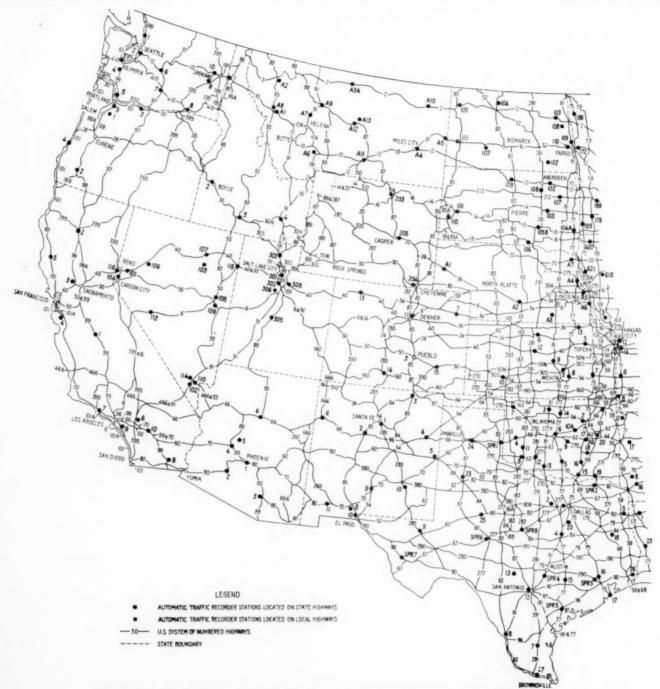


FIGURE 1.-LOCATION OF AUTOMATIC TRAFFIC RECORDER STATIONS IN WESTERN STATES.

the number of vehicles during the maximum day averaged 2.6 times the number on the average day while in the South there were only 1.8 times as many vehicles on the maximum day as on the average day. The curves for both the northern and southern locations (fig. 4) show the same general tendency for the slope of the curves to decrease when the annual volume reaches about 2,000 vehicles per day and then to increase and return nearly to the former slope at between 4,000 and 4,500 vehicles per day.

Figure 5 shows the tenth highest 24-hour traffic volume for each station plotted against the annual average 24-hour volume. The variation in the tenth highest

values for any particular annual average 24-hour volume is considerably less than for the maximum 24-hour volume. On an average, the traffic volume on the tenth highest day is 1.75 as great as the annual average 24-hour volume. Corresponding figures for the locations in the northern and southern States are 1.88 and 1.44, respectively. In other respects, the curves are very similar to those for the maximum days. The tenth highest day was selected as an index because it is felt that it represents the conditions that should be expected on an average Sunday in summertime.

the

Wee

cur

slig

veh

of a

Sinc

con

Figure 6 shows the same average curves as those presented in figures 4 and 5, together with curves for

ur he

ge

nd

are

he

t is

be

ose

for



FIGURE 2.—LOCATION OF AUTOMATIC TRAFFIC RECORDER STATIONS IN EASTERN STATES.

the average 24-hour volumes during the maximum week and maximum month. The slope of each of the curves as obtained from the original data decreased slightly when the annual average reached about 2,000 vehicles and then increased until at an annual average of about 4,500 the former slope was nearly reached. Since the reason for this was probably due to congested conditions on a number of the roads in this group, the

relations shown by the curves on figure 6 are more useful when considering design features to accommodate the various traffic volumes. However, figure 7 illustrates that even these curves are of little value in determining maximums from the annual average since there is a large variation between different stations. For example, although the volume on the maximum day for the average location is 2.32 times as high as the volume on

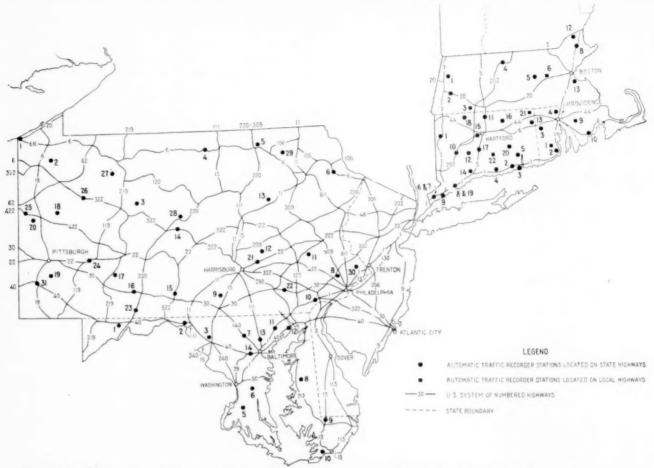


FIGURE 3.—LOCATION OF AUTOMATIC TRAFFIC RECORDER STATIONS IN 7 EASTERN STATES NOT SHOWN IN FIGURE 2.

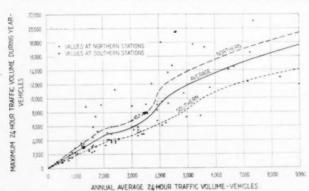


FIGURE 4.—MAXIMUM 24-HOUR TRAFFIC VOLUME DURING 1
YEAR FOR VARIOUS ANNUAL AVERAGE 24-HOUR TRAFFIC VOLUMES.

the average day, the group ranging from 1.4 to 1.8 includes a larger percentage of the locations than any other group covering a similar range. In all cases, the maximum values for the southern stations do not cover as great a range as the northern stations and the values for the southern stations are closer to the annual averages.

Figure 8 shows, for different annual average 24-hour traffic volumes, the average number of days during a year that the traffic volume exceeded various values. Thus, highways with an average of 6,000 vehicles per day on an annual basis carried over 12,000 vehicles on 3 days, over 11,000 vehicles on 11 days, over 8,000 vehicles on 12 days, over 12,000 vehicles on 13 days, over 11,000 vehicles on 14 days, over 15,000 vehicles on 15 days, over 15,000 vehicles on 16 days, over 16,000 vehicles on 17 days, over 17,000 vehicles on 17 days, over 18,000 vehicles on 17 days, over 18,000 vehicles on 17 days, over 18,000 vehicles on 18 days, over 18 days, over

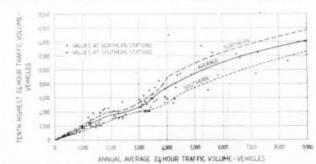


FIGURE 5.—TENTH HIGHEST 24-HOUR TRAFFIC VOLUME DURING 1 YEAR FOR VARIOUS ANNUAL AVERAGE 24-HOUR TRAFFIC VOLUMES.

hicles on 50 days, etc. The curves shown on the figure indicate that for the average location, the 24-hour traffic volume that is exceeded any certain number of days is nearly proportional to the annual average 24-hour traffic volume.

## LARGE PROPORTION OF TRAFFIC MOVES DURING PEAK HOURS

h tl sl st hi

he

ar

eu

eli

Thus, the average highway carrying 4,000 vehicles a day has approximately the same number of days per year with a traffic volume in excess of 5,000 vehicles as a highway carrying 8,000 vehicles per day has days when traffic exceeds 10,000 vehicles. The curves show 56 days in the one case and 47 days in the other.

Since for all roads there is a large variation in the traffic volumes for different hours of the day, and since

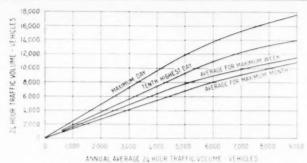


FIGURE 6.—RELATION BETWEEN VARIOUS 24-HOUR TRAFFIC VOLUMES DURING YEAR AND AVERAGE 24-HOUR TRAFFIC VOLUME. (DETERMINED FROM DATA FOR 89 HIGHWAY LOCATIONS.)

MORTHERN STATIONS

EZZ SOUTHERN STATIONS

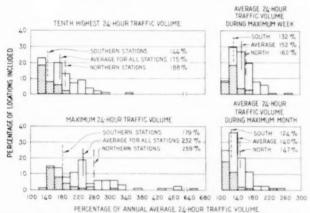


FIGURE 7.—VARIATION IN RELATION BETWEEN 24-HOUR TRAF-FIC VOLUMES DURING PEAK TRAFFIC DENSITY PERIODS AND ANNUAL AVERAGE 24-HOUR TRAFFIC VOLUMES AT DIFFER-ENT LOCATIONS.

the hourly rather than the daily volume is the more practical unit to use as a basis for measuring the capacity of a highway and for design purposes, a number of figures showing the relations between the annual average 24-hour volumes and the individual hourly volumes are presented.

Figure 9 shows the relations between the maximum hour during a year and the average 24-hour volume at each location. The range in maximum hours for stations having similar yearly traffic volumes is great. There are cases in which the maximum for one highway is nearly six times as great as the maximum for another highway carrying the same total number of vehicles during a year. Even the fiftieth highest hour as shown by figure 10 is sometimes three times as high for one station as for another station with the same annual traffic.

The slopes of curves for the relations between the maximum and fiftieth highest hours and the annual 24-hour averages also have a tendency to decrease when the annual average reaches about 2,000 vehicles and then to increase until they return almost to their former slopes near 4,000 vehicles per hour. The curves for the stations located in northern States are considerably higher than those for the stations in southern States.

Figure 11 shows the relations between the maximum hour, the tenth, thirtieth, and fiftieth highest hours, and the average daily volume during the year. The curves shown in this figure have been smoothed to eliminate the sags at annual volumes between 2,000 and 4,000 vehicles which were probably caused by conges-

er.

28

en

56

he

ice

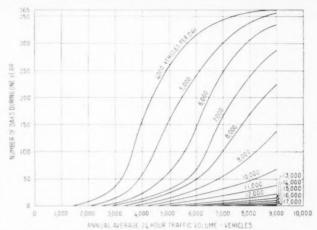


FIGURE 8.—Number of Days During 1 Year That Various 24-Hour Traffic Volumes Were Exceeded. (Determined From Data for 89 Highway Locations.)

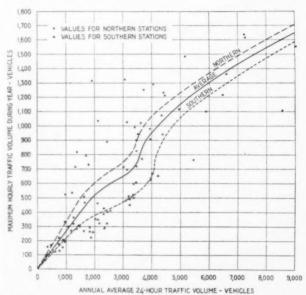


FIGURE 9.—RELATION BETWEEN MAXIMUM HOURLY TRAFFIC VOLUME DURING YEAR AND ANNUAL AVERAGE 24-HOUR TRAFFIC VOLUME.

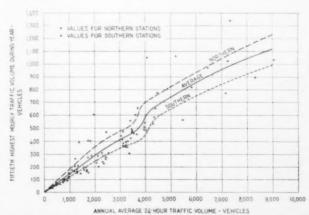


FIGURE 10.—RELATION BETWEEN FIFTIETH HIGHEST HOURLY TRAFFIC VOLUME AND ANNUAL AVERAGE 24-HOUR TRAFFIC VOLUME.

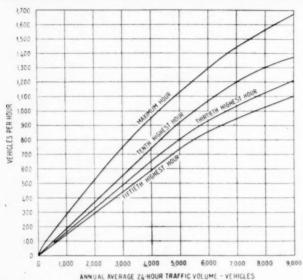


FIGURE 11.—RELATION BETWEEN VARIOUS HOURLY TRAFFIC VOLUMES DURING YEAR AND ANNUAL AVERAGE 24-HOUR TRAFFIC VOLUMES. (DETERMINED FROM DATA FOR 89 HIGHWAY LOCATIONS.)

tion on some of the 2-lane roads in this group during

peak hours.

The variations in the percentages that the peak hourly volumes are of the annual average 24-hour volumes for different locations are shown by figure 12. It may be seen from this figure that the variation between locations decreases as the number of peak hours that are included increases. Thus, although the maximum hours average 25.4 percent of the average daily volume, at only 23.5 percent of the locations is the maximum between 20 and 25 percent of the annual average. For 69 percent of the locations the fiftieth highest hour falls within the same 5-percent range group as the average for all of the fiftieth highest hours. As with the daily volumes, the peak hourly volumes for the northern locations cover a wider range and are a larger percentage of the annual average 24-hour density than corresponding peaks for southern locations.

Data were available for the percentages that out-of-State and commercial vehicles were of the total traffic for 70 of the 90 locations studied. There did not seem to be any relationship between the percentage of out-of-State vehicles and the traffic volume fluctuation but, on an average, there was a slight decrease in the fluctuation with an increase in the percentage of trucks (table 3). Since in the automatic counter records there is no separation of trucks from passenger cars, it was not possible to determine the cause of this decrease. It is reasonable to assume that the peak truck densities occur at different times, either seasonal, daily, or hourly, than the peak passenger-car densities. Furthermore, routes of heavy truck traffic are usually those between centers of population between which also flows a substantial volume of passenger cars used on weekdays for business purposes. Both of these factors tend to increase the weekday volume in comparison to the Sunday flow.

Table 4 shows the relation between the number of vehicles during peak traffic density periods and the annual average 24-hour traffic volume. On an average, there is a very rapid decrease in the average hourly volume during the peak period as the number of hours included in the peak period is increased. When the 50

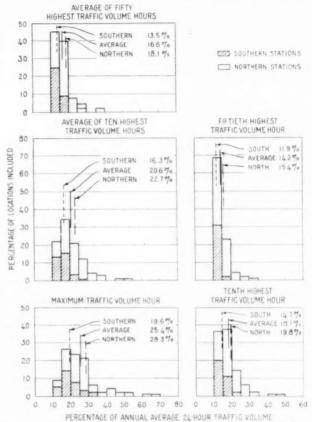


FIGURE 12.—VARIATION IN RELATION BETWEEN HOURLY TRAFFIC VOLUMES DURING PEAK HOURLY TRAFFIC DENSITY PERIODS AND ANNUAL AVERAGE 24-HOUR TRAFFIC VOLUMES AT DIFFERENT LOCATIONS.

hours of peak traffic density, which cover only 0.57 percent of the total time, are included, the average hourly volume is only 16.6 percent of the annual 24-hour average whereas the maximum hour is 25.4 percent of the annual 24-hour average. The percentage of total vehicles included in the peak hours is always relatively large as compared to the percentage of time involved.

Table 3.—Effect that the percentage of trucks has on the relation between the traffic volume during peak density periods and the annual average 24-hour volume

Percentage of trucks in- cluded in total traffic		Number	Percentage	of annual aver traffic volume	age 24-hour
Group limits	Average	of locations	Maximum hour during year	Tenth highest hour during year	Fiftieth highest hour during year
Below 15 5-20 0-25 A bove 25	10. 9 17. 4 22. 6 27. 6	9 19 22 20	27. 7 26. 2 26. 4 23. 2	21. 2 18. 4 18. 2 17. 3	15. 14. 14. 13.

## DATA ON TRAFFIC VOLUMES DURING PEAK HOURS NEEDED FOR DESIGN OF HIGHWAYS

Figure 13 shows the average number of hours each year that the traffic density exceeded various hourly traffic volumes for highways with different annual average 24-hour volumes. Thus, highways carrying an annual average of 5,000 vehicles per day had 610 hours when the traffic volume exceeded 400 vehicles per hour, 350 hours when the traffic volume exceeded 500 vehicles

per hour, 200 hours when the traffic volume exceeded 600 vehicles per hour, etc.

It is a generally accepted fact that it is not economically advisable to construct a highway to accommodate the peak traffic densities that will use it during its probable life, unless to do so involves no additional construction cost over designs to accommodate fewer vehicles. However, the time, percentage of time, number of vehicles, or percentage of vehicles that may be included in the peak traffic densities not cared for by the design are still unknown quantities. Although the design will depend to a large extent upon the funds available for construction, figure 13 throws some light on the hourly traffic volumes for which highways with different annual traffic densities and having average traffic fluctuations should be designed. From the figure, it may be seen that for any annual average 24-hour traffic volume, there is a rapid increase in the number of hours included between each 100-vehicle change in the hourly volume when the number of hours included is greater than the 50 peak hours, but there is only a small change in the number of hours included as the volume goes below the value shown for the thirtieth highest hour.

Table 4.—Relation between number of vehicles during peak traffic density periods and the annual average 24-hour traffic volume (average for 60 northern and 30 southern stations)

Time period	hourl durin perio	that is y traffic g peak ds is of ge 24-houne	volume density annual	Per- centage of total time in- cluded (annual basis)	Percentage of total an- nual traffic included			
	North- ern stations	South- ern stations	All sta- tions		North- ern stations	South- ern stations	All sta-	
Maximum month (30 days)	6.1	5. 2	5. 8	8, 21	12.03	10. 26	11.44	
Maximum week	6.8	5. 5	6.3	1.92	3. 13	2. 53	2.90	
10 highest days	8.9	6.4	8.1	2.74	5.85	4.21	5. 33	
Maximum day	10.8	7.4	9.7	. 27	.71	. 49	, 64	
Maximum hour	28.3	19.6	25.4	. 01	. 08	. 05	. 07	
10 highest hours		16.3	20.6	.11	. 62	. 45	. 56	
0 highest hours	20.9	15.0	19.5	. 23	1.15	. 82	1.0	
30 bighest hours		14.3	18. 2	. 34	1, 61	1.18	1.50	
10 highest hours		13.9	17.4	. 46	2.06	1.52	1.9	
50 highest hours	18.1	13.5	16.6	. 57	2.48	1.85	2.3	

For example, at the average location with an annual average 24-hour traffic volume of 4,000 vehicles, the various hourly traffic volumes are exceeded for the number of hours shown in the following tabulation:

Hourly traffic volume:	Number of hours during 1 year
950	1
800	8
700	20
650	30
600	50
500	115
400	280

A design based on the maximum hourly volume would be required to handle nearly 1½ times as many vehicles per hour as a design based on the 30 peak traffic volume hours, but the additional number of vehicles accommodated would only be 1.5 percent of the annual traffic (table 4). On the other hand, designing for a traffic volume only 30 percent less than the volume exceeded during 50 hours would result in a 560 percent increase in the number of hours of traffic not accommodated by the design. The percentage of the total number of

ly

an

115

11.

les

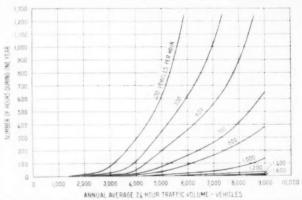


FIGURE 13.—NUMBER OF HOURS THAT VARIOUS HOURLY TRAFFIC VOLUMES ARE EXCEEDED ON HIGHWAYS HAVING DIFFERENT ANNUAL TRAFFIC DENSITIES. (DETERMINED FROM DATA FOR 89 HIGHWAY LOCATIONS.)

vehicles using the highway that would not be accommodated by the design would be increased from 2.3 to 9.9. It, therefore, seems that for the average highway. it is impractical to design for a greater hourly volume than the value which will be exceeded only during the 30 peak hours each year and that little will probably be saved in the construction cost and a great deal lost in expediting the movement of traffic if a design is used that will not handle the traffic volume exceeded during the 50 peak hours. The exact value to use depends upon the traffic volumes that the different designs will accommodate. Thus, if the traffic volume is such that to accommodate the hourly volume exceeded for 30 hours during a year requires a greater number of traffic lanes than to accommodate the hourly volume exceeded for 50 hours, the lower number of lanes should probably be used.

Since this analysis is based on the average fluctuation in traffic density for many highways, the results are not applicable to each location. For an extreme example, a comparison has been made of the data for the station included in this anlaysis that had the greatest fluctuation in the hourly traffic volumes during the year and the station that was found to have the most uniform flow of traffic. The percentage of the total time during which each of these road sections carried traffic volumes in excess of different numbers of vehicles per hour and the percentage of all vehicles that passed over each road section when the hourly traffic volume was in excess of the specified traffic densities are shown by The section with the largest variation in traffic flow had an annual average 24-hour traffic volume of 4,057 vehicles, was located in the North, and is referred to as section A. The one with the most uniform traffic flow had an annual average 24-hour traffic volume of 4,226 vehicles, was located in the South, and is referred to as section B.

Although practically the same number of vehicles used these two road sections in 1 year, the traffic on section B was rarely in excess of 500 vehicles per hour, while on section A it sometimes reached 1,200 vehicles per hour and was in excess of 500 vehicles per hour for 5.5 percent of the time. Since the percentage of the total vehicles during high density periods is greater than the percentage of the total time occupied by the same density periods, 25.1 percent of the vehicles traveled over section A during the 5.5 percent of the time that the hourly density exceeded 500 vehicles.

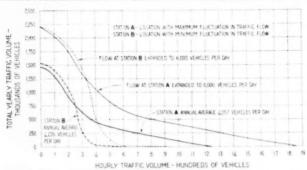


FIGURE 14.—CUMULATIVE FREQUENCY CURVES SHOWING THE NUMBER OF VEHICLES WHEN TRAFFIC IS IN EXCESS OF VARIOUS HOURLY TRAFFIC VOLUMES AT STATIONS HAVING MAXIMUM AND MINIMUM FLUCTUATION IN TRAFFIC FLOW.

Table 5.—Percentage of time and percentage of vehicles included during periods that road sections carried traffic in excess of different hourly volumes

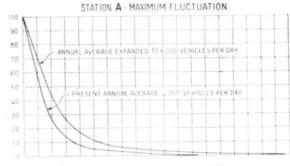
Hourly volume, vehicles		e percentage al time	Cumulative percentage of total vehicles		
	Section A	Section B	Section A	Section B	
,200	0.2		1.3		
1,100	. 5		3. 3		
1,000	1.1		6, 8		
900	1.6		9. 9		
800	2.3		13. 3		
700	3.0		16.4		
500	4. 2	(1)	20.8	0.	
500	5. 5	0.1	25. 1		
100	7.6	. 9	30, 3	2.	
300	14.0	9.0	43, 2	18.	
200	26, 7	46. 5	61. 2	70	
100	57. 6	71.6	87.5	91	
D	100.0	100.0	100.0	100	

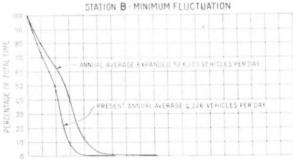
<sup>1</sup> Less than 0.1 percent.

Figure 14 shows the data obtained from the automatic traffic recorders located at these 2 stations in a most useful form. The curve for traffic at station B shows that a highway designed to accommodate 400 vehicles per hour would be the most economical design at this location for the present traffic, since designing for a greater volume would result in but a slight increase in the number of vehicles accommodated, and designing for a traffic volume even slightly less than 400 vehicles per hour would result in a relatively large increase in the number of vehicles that would be required to use the highway during periods when the volume was in excess of the design value.

## RECORDS OF PAST YEARS USEFUL IN ESTIMATING FUTURE PEAK TRAFFIC VOLUMES

Highway design for the traffic flow at station A presents a more difficult problem. Based only on the annual traffic density, the same design could be used at both locations; but if the design at station A were based on 400 vehicles per hour, nearly half a million, or one-third of the vehicles, would use the road during periods when the traffic density exceeded the design value. A design to accommodate the same percentage of vehicles at station A as are accommodated by a design of 400 vehicles per hour at station B would have to accommodate 1,200 vehicles per hour. The actual design value for the location represented by station A would depend entirely upon the funds available and the hourly capacity of highways of different designs. However, if the present width of surface and alinement were identical at these two locations, the highway with the traffic flow represented by station A





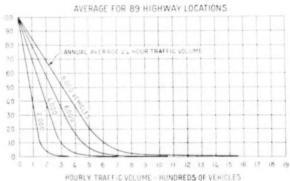


FIGURE 15.—CUMULATIVE FREQUENCY CURVES SHOWING THE PERCENTAGE OF TIME THAT THE TRAFFIC WAS IN EXCESS OF VARIOUS HOURLY VOLUMES ON HIGHWAYS HAVING THE MAXIMUM, MINIMUM, AND AVERAGE FLUCTUATION IN THE FLOW OF TRAFFIC.

should be given prior consideration in any construction or improvement program designed to reduce traffic congestion such as the elimination of short sight distances, increasing the surface width, increasing the number of traffic lanes, or providing grade separations.

Since highway construction programs must be based on future as well as present traffic densities to avoid obsolescence in a relatively short time, it is essential to estimate future fluctuations in the traffic volumes as well as the future increase in the annual traffic. A study of the future variation in traffic flow can usually be based on the present fluctuation. When a cumulative frequency curve such as the one shown in figure 14 has been determined, it will generally be safe to assume that the shape of the curve will not change materially with either an increase or decrease of average daily traffic unless it is definitely known that some local development will tend to alter the shape of the curve.

If it is assumed that an increase in the annual traffic affects all portions of present traffic volumes proportionally and that the annual average daily traffic will increase to 6,000 vehicles at some future date, the

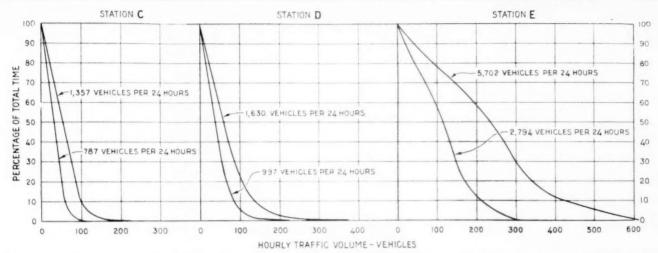


FIGURE 16.—PERCENTAGE OF TIME THAT TRAFFIC WAS IN EXCESS OF VARIOUS HOURLY DENSITIES AT STATIONS WHERE THERE WAS AN APPRECIABLE DIFFERENCE IN THE AVERAGE 24-HOUR VOLUMES FOR THE SAME PERIOD IN SUCCESSIVE YEARS.

cumulative frequency curves as obtained from the present records made by the automatic recorders can be expanded by increasing both values for points along the present traffic curve in the same ratio as the estimated future annual traffic is to the present traffic. By expanding the curves for the present traffic on sections A and B in this manner to annual average daily volumes of 6,000 vehicles, the expanded cumulative frequency curves as shown by the light lines on figure 14 were obtained. In a similar manner, the data for the present traffic can be expanded to any annual average daily volumes. It is interesting to note that at the present time, with a volume of 4,057 vehicles per day, a larger number of vehicles travel over the highway represented by station A during periods when the traffic volume exceeds any value over 420 vehicles per hour, than will travel over the highway represented by station B when the annual average daily volume reaches 6,000 vehicles.

Since the curves shown in figure 14 represent locations with the maximum and minimum fluctuation in traffic flow found by analyzing records at 90 stations located on U. S. routes in all parts of the country, it is reasonable to expect that similar curves for practically all sections on U. S. numbered highways will fall somewhere between the curves representing these two locations for corresponding annual traffic volumes. However, the range between the two curves for identical traffic volumes is so great that they emphasize the importance of having at least a full year's record from an automatic traffic recorder before an intelligent analysis can be made of the traffic needs on any particular section of highway where improvements to increase the traffic capacity of the highway are contemplated.

Cumulative frequency curves of the type shown in figure 15 are useful when it is desired to compare the percentage of time that traffic on different road sections is in excess of various hourly volumes. The data obtained from the automatic traffic counters at the stations included in this analysis where the maximum and minimum fluctuation in traffic flow were recorded, have been used in plotting the curves for stations A and B, respectively. When expanding the data shown by the original curves to other traffic volumes, the values along the abscissa are increased by the same ratio as the annual traffic, while the values along the ordinate are

0

e

e

e

Ill

held constant. The values for stations A and B have been expanded to show the percentage of time that the traffic will be in excess of various hourly volumes when the annual average volume increases to 6,000 vehicles per day (fig. 15). In a similar manner, the data for 89 locations were expanded to annual 24-hour traffic volumes of 6,000 vehicles and the values averaged to obtain the average cumulative frequency curve shown in figure 15. This curve and other curves formed by expanding the individual values to other traffic densities show the relation between time and hourly traffic density for highways with the average fluctuation in traffic flow.

The method outlined above for estimating the percentage of time, number of vehicles, or number of hours included in the various hourly traffic density groups when there is a change in the annual traffic, assumes that the change will affect all portions of the cumulative frequency curves proportionately. This will always be true when all portions of the traffic pattern are affected proportionately but may also be true even though there is a material change in the traffic pattern.

Since automatic, hourly recording counters have only been in operation during recent years, there were only three stations where the recorders had been operated continuously for at least 2 years and where there had been sufficient increases in the annual traffic densities during the period of operation to check the accuracy of this assumption. At these three locations, referred to as stations C, D, and E, the total traffic volumes during the same period in successive years had increased from averages of 787, 997, and 2,794 vehicles per day to 1,357, 1,630, and 5,702 vehicles per day, respectively. The cumulative curves for the percentage of time that traffic at the 3 stations was in excess of various hourly volumes during each of the 2 different traffic density periods are shown by figure 16. In each case, if the values shown for the lower volume curve are expanded in the same ratio as the two average 24-hour volumes are to each other, as previously outlined, the curves for the higher average volumes will be exactly duplicated.

While such a close agreement will probably not be found for all locations, especially where local developments tend to influence the traffic pattern and where the increase takes place over a period of 10 or 20 years, the data available at the present time substantiate the

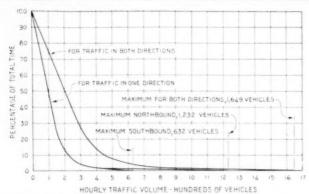


FIGURE 17.—PERCENTAGE OF TIME THAT TRAFFIC DENSITY ON U. S. ROUTE 41 WAS IN EXCESS OF VARIOUS HOURLY VOLUMES. (ANNUAL AVERAGE 24-HOUR TRAFFIC VOLUME WAS 5,614 VEHICLES.)

one assumption necessary to expand the automatic recorder data to care for increased annual traffic densities.

## PERCENTAGE OF TRAFFIC MOVING IN EACH DIRECTION DURING PEAK HOURS IMPORTANT

For design and traffic control purposes it is often desirable to know the percentage of the total vehicles traveling in each direction during hours of high traffic This can be obtained for divided highways by using an automatic traffic recorder for each of the two directions. On undivided roadways, the automatic recorders using either light beams or the direct contact or pneumatic tube as the means of detection can be equipped with special units so that only vehicles traveling in one direction will be recorded. Approximate values can also be obtained when the contact type of detector is used by placing the detector so that only vehicles traveling on one-half of the roadway will be recorded. By proper selection of locations, the error due to vehicles traveling to the left of the center of the roadway, as when passing, can be reduced to a minimum.

Cumulative frequency curves for two locations on divided highways, where automatic traffic counters obtained the number of vehicles in each direction for each hour during periods exceeding 1 year, are shown by figures 17 and 18.

The percentage of time that the traffic at automatic recorder stations 2 and 3 on U.S. Route 41, 18 miles south of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, was in excess of various hourly volumes is shown by figure 17. At station 2 south-bound traffic was recorded, while at station 3 north-bound traffic was recorded. By adding the number of vehicles in the two directions for corresponding hours, the total traffic on the route during each hour of the year was obtained. Although the number of vehicles traveling in each of the two directions was rare'y the same for any particular hour, the number of hours that each direction carried the various traffic volumes below 300 vehicles per hour was approximately equal to the number of hours during a year that the total traffic volume in both directions was twice the corresponding densities. Both directions carried traffic volumes in excess of 300 vehicles per hour for 4 percent of the time, and the total volume was in excess of 600 vehicles per hour for 4 percent of the time. The maximum volume of south-bound traffic was 632 vehicles per hour and the maximum volume of north-

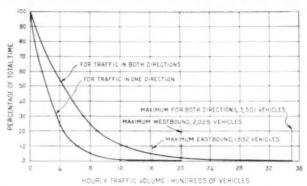


FIGURE 18.—PERCENTAGE OF TIME THAT TRAFFIC DENSITY ON THE MERRITT PARKWAY WAS IN EXCESS OF VARIOUS HOURLY VOLUMES. (ANNUAL AVERAGE 24-HOUR TRAFFIC VOLUME WAS 13,624 VEHICLES.)

bound traffic was 1,232 vehicles per hour, but the total volume never exceeded 1,649 vehicles per hour. During the 1 hour that the total volume reached 1,649 vehicles, 74.7 percent of the traffic was in one direction. During the 10 peak hours of total traffic volume, the traffic in one direction averaged 70 percent of the total traffic.

On the Merritt Parkway, at traffic recorder stations 6 and 7 near Greenwich, Conn., the traffic in one direction exceeded all traffic volumes below 1,100 vehicles per hour for the same number of hours that the total volume exceeded twice the corresponding densities (fig. 18). East-bound, west-bound, and total traffic never exceeded 1,632, 2,025, and 3,501 vehicles per hour, respectively. During the 10 peak hours, the traffic in one direction averaged 57 percent of the total traffic.

The results obtained at these two locations indicate that if a cumulative frequency curve of the type shown in figures 17 and 18 is available for either the traffic in one direction or for the total traffic, the curves for both the traffic in one direction and the total traffic can be obtained, except for a very small portion of the total time when the peak volumes occur. It is also evident that unless practically all the vehicles are to be accommodated, designs for each direction of traffic based on half of the total volume are sufficient, but if all vehicles are to be accommodated, the design for each direction must in some cases be based on volumes as high as 70 percent of the peak total volumes.

## COMPLETE TRAFFIC RECORDS USEFUL IN SELECTING SCHEDULES FOR TRAFFIC SURVEYS

The second of the general problems for which automatic traffic recorder data furnish a means of attack is that of planning observation schedules for traffic surveys. A satisfactory schedule must require sufficient observation in the field to enable an accurate estimate of the year's total traffic and of the various types of vehicle units of which it is composed. Results of the schedule operation should enable the analyst to make estimates of the ranges in traffic volume—in particular an estimate of traffic during periods of maximum volume.

The schedule should be so devised as to balance cost of operation against accuracy of results; i. e., the time for which it is necessary to pay men to count traffic should be as small as possible so that costs will be low, while the time for which traffic must be observed must be as large as is necessary to assure accurate results.

It has been recognized in earlier analyses 3 that traffic volume is affected principally by the hour, day of the week, and the month in which the count is taken. Less predictable effects upon traffic volume result from variation in weather conditions, detoured traffic from a normal route due to road construction or other reasons, holidays, football games, fairs, or other events attracting

unusual numbers of people.

There are, of course, a number of means by which allowance may be made in the schedule of operation to provide measures of the hourly, daily, and seasonal fluctuations in traffic. Because of the numerous possibilities, it is feasible to test but a few of these possible schedules. Since total traffic has been measured by the automatic traffic recorders, the average daily traffic may be computed with precision; and since data are available for every hour and every day of the year at a large number of locations, any combination of hours, days, and seasons may be selected. From the selected periods or assumed schedule, an estimated average daily traffic may be computed. Comparison of the estimated values under various assumed schedules with exact values obtained from the year's complete record will establish the relative accuracy of the various schedules selected for test.

One of the schedules selected for test is the "key station schedule" first used 4 in the Western States Traffic Survey and in subsequent surveys in which the Public Roads Administration cooperated, and by the various States in the Highway Planning Surveys.

Each operation covered a 10-hour period on a staggered schedule from 6 a, m. to 4 p, m, and from 10 a, m, to 8 p, m, with splits in the count at 10 a. m. and 4 p. m. This permitted a continuation series of the 10 a. m. to 4 p. m. section through all operations, which were scheduled to provide two counts for each of the 7 days of the week. Sufficient night counts from 10 p. m. to 6 a. m. were obtained to adjust all data to a 24-hour day.

When the 8-hour counting period became generally used, this schedule was modified to cover the 6 a. m. to 2 p. m. and 2 p. m. to 10 p. m. periods alternately at intervals of 26 days, thus covering each day of the week at 6-month intervals (schedule I). Sufficient night counts, usually four in number, were seasonally spaced to cover the 10 p. m. to 6 a. m. period. The effects of the schedule were: To balance the seasonal variation in traffic; to cover the full 24 hours at each point of observation; to cover each of the days of the week at every point; and to set up the operation in such a manner as to keep a relatively small force of men continuously employed, with days of no work equivalent to those received by men in other forms of employment.

The second schedule (schedule II) to be tested is that recommended at the location of the recording type automatic traffic counters in the continuing traffic surveys conducted as an integral feature of the Highway Planning Surveys. Machines are operated for a 24-hour period on Saturday and Sunday and either on Friday or Monday to give a continuous record of the three typical days of the statistical week. These stations may be considered as control stations of the con-

tinuing blanket counts.

The third schedule (schedule III) to be tested with the data available from the automatic traffic recorders is one in which it is assumed that each period of observa-

tion is but 1 hour in duration. There are a total of 40 such observation periods at each station, scattered throughout the year as indicated in the following sample schedule:

a. m.	p. m.
12- 1 Apr. 7	
1- 2 May 25	$12-1 \begin{cases} Mar. 14 \\ Sept. 22 \end{cases}$
2- 3 July 12	Mar. 26 (Sunday)
	1- 2) Oct. 4
4- 5 Oct. 16	a afApr. 7
5- 6 Dec. 3	2- 3 Oct. 16
a - [Jan. 1 (Sunday)	a (Apr. 19
6- 7 July 12	3- 4 Oct. 28 (Saturday)
- Jan 13	- (May 1
7- 8 July 24	4- 5 Nov 9
- Jan 25	May 13 (Saturday)
3- 4 Aug. 29 4- 5 Oct. 16 5- 6 Dec. 3 6- 7{Jan. 1 (Sunday)} 7- 8{Jan. 13 7- 8{July 12 7- 8{July 24 8- 9{Jan. 25 Aug. 5 (Saturday)} 9-10{Feb. 6 Aug. 17	Sept. 22   1-2   Mar. 26 (Sunday)   1-2   Mar. 26 (Sunday)   2-3   Apr. 7   Oct. 16   3-4   Apr. 19   Oct. 28 (Saturday)   4-5   May 1   Nov. 9   5-6   May 13 (Saturday)   Mov. 21   May 25   May 25
(Feb 6	6-7 May 25 Dec. 3 (Sunday) 7-8 June 6 Dec. 15
9-10(Aug. 17	6-7 Dec 3 (Sunday)
(Feb. 18 (Saturday)	(June 6
10-11 Feb. 18 (Saturday) Aug. 29	7- 8 Dec. 15
(Mar 2	(June 18 (Sunday)
$11-12$ $\begin{cases} Mar & 2 \\ Sept. 10 \end{cases}$ (Sunday)	8-9 June 18 (Sunday) Dec. 27 9-10 June 30 Jan. 7 (Saturday)
(Sept. 10 (Sunday)	(June 20)
	9-10 June 30
	(Jan. / (Saturday)
	10-11 Jan. 1
	11–12 Feb. 18

It will be noted that under this schedule of operation the period from 6 a.m. to 7 a.m. is covered in January and in July, at nearly 6-month intervals. The 7 a.m. to 8 a. m. hour is also covered in January and July, again approximately at 6-month intervals, and so for all of the hours from 6 a. m. to 10 p. m. The remaining hours, those normally of much lesser traffic importance, are covered but once, at approximately 6-week intervals throughout the year.

## ACCURACY OF THREE OBSERVATION SCHEDULES DETERMINED

The estimates of average daily traffic under each assumed schedule are computed as follows: At the key stations (schedule I), traffic observed during the 6 a.m. to 2 p. m., 2 p. m. to 10 p. m., and 10 p. m. to 6 a. m. periods is averaged and the three averages are totaled for the estimated average daily traffic. At the control blanket-count stations (schedule II), the observed weekday traffic is multiplied by 5, traffic counts for a Saturday and a Sunday are added, and the total is divided by 7 for the counts taken during each season. The 4 seasonal averages, thus computed, are totaled and divided by 4 to give the estimated average daily traffic for the year. At the stations where traffic is assumed to have been observed only during hourly periods (schedule III) the averages of the 2 observations for each hour from 6 a. m. to 10 p. m. are obtained. To these averages (16 in number) are added the observed traffic for each hour from 10 p. m. to 6 a. m. The result is the estimated average daily traffic under this schedule.

Tables 6, 7, and 8 present the average daily traffic computed from schedules I, II, and III, using the analysis methods outlined above. In table 6 the stations were those located on State routes that carried a relatively large volume of traffic. In table 7, stations were also those located on State routes, but with a light traffic volume; while in table 8 all stations were on local routes, usually those carrying a smaller traffic volume than the stations used in table 7. Thirty-three stations were

included in each of the above classes.

In addition to the computed averages, the true average daily traffic and the ratios of the various computed averages to the true averages, are tabulated. Weighted averages of these ratios are shown in the last line of each table.

Highway Traffic Analysis Methods and Results, by L. E. Peabody. PUBLIC ROADS, vol. 10, No. 1, March 1929.
 The Western States Traffic Survey, by L. E. Peabody. PUBLIC ROADS, vol. 13, No. 1, March 1932.
 Digest of Report on Arkansas Traffic Survey, by L. E. Peabody. PUBLIC ROADS, vol. 17, No. 6, August 1936.

Table 6 .- Automatic traffic recorder averages for year 1939, State routes carrying heavy traffic

		Average daily traffic				Percentage of actual			
State	Sta- tion				Actual	average			
		I	11	Ш	average for year	I	II	111	
Massachusetts		2, 926	3, 413	3,066	2,959	98. 9	115.3	103. 6	
Pennsylvania		6,635	7,462	7,062	7,069	93.9	105, 6	99, 9	
Connecticut	1 2	3,811	4, 127	3,755	1 3, 915	97.3	105.4	95.9	
onmettede	1 17	7,993	8, 974	8, 444	2 8, 112	98.5	110.6	104.1	
Florida	10	3,500	4, 356	3,576	3,462	101.1	125.8	103.3	
	13	1,748	1,934	1,924	1,805	96.8	107.1	106. 0	
Michigan Louisiana	676 14	3, 241 2, 999	3,926 2,977	3, 430 2, 974	3,460	93. 7 98. 5	113. 5 97. 7	99. 1 97. €	
Missouri	9	5, 131	5, 372	5, 278	5, 266	97.4	102.0	100, 2	
Texas	1	8, 774	9, 130	9, 323	9, 102	96.4	100.3	102. 4	
Colorado	11	5, 480	5, 507	6,010	3 5, 578	98.2	98. 7	107.7	
Washington	10	3, 270	3, 521	3, 418	3, 427	95. 4	102.7	99.7	
Oregon	2	1.012	990	989	985	102.7	100.5	100.4	
California	f 1	6,091	6, 185	6, 452	6,316	96.4	97.9	102.1	
Cantorna	1 10	4, 105	4, 464	4,383	4, 159	98.7	107.3	105.4	
Alabama	5	5,300	5, 390	5,755	5, 381	98.5	100.2	107.0	
Ald vallid	1 7	1,488	1,592	1,547	1,612	92. 3	98. 8	96. (	
Arizona	1	7, 115	7,528	7,592	7, 210	98.7	104.4	105.5	
	3	1,873	1,967	2,003	4 1,889	99. 2	104.1	106.0	
Arkansas	13	2, 191	2, 118	2. 186	\$ 2,169 \$ 2,542	101.0 97.6	97.6	100.8	
	1 6	2,480	2,540 2,652	2,382	6 2, 637	109.7	100, 6	92.6	
California	2	2, 526	2,464	2, 465	6 2, 521	100, 2	97. 7	97.1	
Camornia	9	4,015	4,073	3, 805	7 4, 141	97.0	98.4	91.5	
	1	4, 883	5, 218	4, 809	4 5, 085	96. 0	102.6	94.6	
Connecticut	15	9,015	9, 363	9,696	1 9, 367	96. 2	99.9	103.	
Georgia	f 1	3, 249	3, 166	3, 155	3, 238	100.3	97.8	97.	
	1 0	4,347	4, 430	4, 260	4,363	99.6	101.5	97.6	
Idaho	1 2	2, 677	2,742	2,820	2,724	98.3	100.7	103.	
		2, 436	2,438	2,430	2.468	98.7	98.8	98.	
Illinois Indiana	9	4,314	4, 586	4, 273	4, 465	96.6	102.7	95.	
Iowa	59 A 601	3, 179 3, 219	3, 664	3, 295 3, 437	3, 407 8 3, 444	93, 3 93, 5	107. 5 109. 6	96.1 99.1	
Weighted aver-	-			-	1				
age				1.1-11-11		97.5	103. 4	100.	
Weighted per- centage of error.						3.01	4. 28	3. 59	

A comparison on the basis of these weighted averages indicates that schedule I generally produces the most accurate results on State routes carrying heavy traffic, and that schedule II gives the most accurate values on State routes that carry light traffic. Considering all stations, the weighted average deviation of the ratios of computed traffic to true traffic is approximately equal for schedule I and II, and schedule III is generally less accurate than either of the others. However, it may be remarked that the average differences are small under all three schedules.

A better comparison of the results may be made by arranging the number of stations under each schedule according to the percentage deviation of the computed traffic from the true traffic volumes, as indicated in

Traffic at 73 of the 99 stations may be estimated under schedule I within 5 percent of the true values, as compared with 74 stations and 54 stations for schedules II and III, respectively. While 14 stations give results within 1 percent of true values under schedule III, as compared with 14 under schedule I, and 18 under schedule II, results at 45 stations are more than 5 percent inaccurate under schedule III as compared with but 26 stations under schedule I and 25 under schedule II.

From these tests, at a limited number of stations well distributed both geographically and with respect to traffic volumes, it would appear that schedule III produces results with a considerably wider range of devia-

Table 7.— Automatic traffic recorder averages for year 1939, State routes carrying light traffic

State		Average daily traffic				Percentage of actual			
	Sta- tion				Actual	average			
		1	11	111	average for year	I	11	Ш	
Arizona	5	201	206	193	206	97.6	100, 0	93. 7	
Arkansas	7	194	209	207	198	98.0	105.6	104. 8	
leorgia	- 11	280	295	299	292	95. 9	101.0	102.	
owa	607	435	455	448	434	100.2	104.8	103.	
Louisiana	13	151	149	153	1 150	100.7	99, 3	102.	
Minnesota	f 171	263	268	271	2 275	95. 6	97.5	98.	
	174	283	293	332	3 298	95.0	98, 3	111.	
Missouri	7	595	652	611	608	97. 9	107. 2	100.	
Montana	A-7	462	474	421	474	97.5	100.0	88.	
Vebraska	A-3	208	207	220	213	97.7	97. 2	103.	
Vevada	114	263	226	224	228	115. 4	99. 1	98.	
New Hampshire	3	538	565	437	513	104.9	110.1	85.	
)klahoma	- 8	1,091	1, 087	1, 110	1, 111	98. 2	97.8	99,	
Pennsylvania	7	302	364	344	4 358	84.4	101.7	96.	
Rhode Island		325	337	307	326	99.7	103.4	94.	
South Carolina	104	676	687	694	665	101.7	103. 3	104.	
Texas	1 8	863	821	877	848	101.8	96.8	103.	
	1 9	538	532	504	526	102.3	101.1	95.	
Utah	305	724	783	765	766	94.5	102. 2	99,	
Washington West Virginia	8	230 540	226	241 502	222 5 551	103. 6	101.8	108. 91.	
Alabama	6	614	556 671	701	667	92. 1	100. 6	105	
California	4	772	808	736	829	93. 1	97.5	88.	
Connecticut	4	716	752	630	8 757	94.6	99.3	83.	
Florida	11	393	375	350	381	103. 1	98.4	91.	
Kansas	7	898	883	952	909	98.8	97. 1	104.	
Kentucky	4	301	310	289	7 295	102.0	105.0	98.	
Maine		400	414	367	407	98.3	101.7	90.	
Maryland	3	386	421	401	376	102.7	112.0	106.	
Michigan	672	972	1,007	872	969	100, 3	103.9	90,	
Pennsylvania	5	498	531	577	543	91.7	97.8	106.	
South Dakota	106	452	468	469	479	94. 4	97.7	97.	
Wisconsin	16	892	934	993	998	89. 4	93. 6	99.	
Weighted aver-									
age .						97.5	100.5	97.	
Weighted per-									
centage of error						4.05	3, 12	5.6	

tion from true values than schedules I or II; that is, the results from the use of schedule III are much more erratic than those from either of the other schedules.

Accuracy is one of the most important considerations involved in selecting a schedule of operation. Cost of operation, completeness of resulting data, and practical time and distance factors involved in putting the schedule into field operation are frequently of equal importance

In the State-wide Highway Planning Surveys, volume is but one of the many traffic items investigated. At loadometer and pit-scale stations, weight of vehicle. weight of loads, length, height, and width of vehicles, origin and destination of vehicle trips are a few of the many additional items with respect to which information is needed. Classification of vehicles by types is also necessary

At loadometer and pit-scale stations, flags, flares. and protection signs must be placed, since vehicles must be stopped for weighing and questionnaires must be filled out. This preparation of a station for safe operation takes a considerable amount of time. This time requirement, together with the time needed to transport from one station to another personnel trained to obtain this type of information, makes practically impossible the use of a schedule based upon short periods of observation.

Use of a short period of observation reduces the amount of effective time (i. e., percentage of total time that stations are actually in operation) and greatly in-

Feb. 18, 1939–Feb. 17, 1940. Feb. 25, 1939–Feb. 24, 1940. Dec. 17, 1938–Dec. 16, 1939. Mar. 10, 1939–Mar. 9, 1940.

Jan. 29, 1939-Jan. 28, 1940.
 Year 1938.
 Feb. 5, 1937-Feb. 4, 1938.
 Apr. 16, 1938-Apr. 15, 1939.

Oct. 29, 1938-Oct. 28, 1939. Aug. 6, 1938-Aug. 5, 1939. Aug. 20, 1938-Aug. 19, 1939. Oct. 1, 1938-Sept. 30, 1939.

Mar. 18, 1939-Mar. 17, 1940.
 Feb. 18, 1939-Feb. 17, 1940.
 Year 1938.

Table 8.—Automatic traffic recorder averages for year 1939, local

		A	erage d	aily tra	ffic	Perce	ntage of	actual
State	Sta- tion	S	cheduk		Actual average		Average	
		I	II	Ш	for year	I	11	111
Arkansas	10	250	266	268	1 259	96.5	102,7	103, 5
Georgia	2	113	131	107	113	100.0	115.9	94.7
Iowa	, 609	96	93	107		100.0	96.9	111.5
	f orr	58	-66	78	64	90.6	103.1	121 9
Kentucky	4	308	287	289	300	102.7	95, 7	96 3
Maryland	8	341	344	363	349	97.7	98.6	104.0
Minnesota	169	130	134	122	2 136	95.6	98.5	89.7
	1 178	116	116	122	3 120	96. 7	96, 7	101.7
Montana	A-2	134	145	140	139	96.4	104.3	100.7
North Carolina	5	141	140	149	3 142	99.3	98.6	104.9
Ohio	5	155	176	160	172	90.1	102.3	93.0
South Dakota	105A	242	241	250	232	104.3	103.9	107.8
Texas	22	89	92	105	4.94	94.7	97.9	111.7
Wisconsin	19	186	185	196	195	95.4	94.9	100.2
Alabama	1	374	454	402	5 380	98.4	119.5	105.8
Massachusetts	1 3	209	225	175	6 213	98. 1	105, 6	82.2
Massachusetts	1 9	356	399	315	356	100.0	112.0	88.5
Michigan		335	325	311	330	101.5	98.5	94.2
	177	547	533	526	567	97.5	94.0	92.8
Minnesota	183	192	188	207	1184	104.4	102.1	112.5
	184	229	202	203	a 155	115.1	101.5	102.0
Missouri	3	391	405	406	379	103.2	106.9	107.1
	1 9	440	491	431	470	93.6	104.4	91.7
North Carolina	6	213	231	182	9 213	100.0	108.5	85.4
	1 8	154	164	140	10 165	93.3	99.4	84.8
Ohio	f 3	241	257	242	11 261	92.3	98.5	92.7
	11 10	468	458	452	457	102.4	100.2	98.9
Oklahoma	10	562	558	549	558	100.7	100.0	98.4
Rhode Island	1	381	398	375	389	97.9	102.3	96.4
Texas		356	369	380	374	95. 2	98.7	101.6
Utah	304	561	591	627	593	94.6	99.7	105.7
	307	1,500	1,660	1,585	1,593	94.2	104.2	99.
Wisconsin	20	258	303	291	274	94. 2	110.6	106.5
Weighted aver-								
age						97.7	102. 5	98.
Weighted per-								
centage of error.						4.01	4.29	5, 33

1

e

1-

rt

in

le of Estimated.
 Aug. 6, 1938-Aug. 5, 1939.
 Aug. 20, 1938-Aug. 19, 1939.
 Nov. 19, 1938-Nov. 18, 1939.
 Apr. 30, 1939-Apr. 29, 1940.
 Jan. 15, 1939-Jan. 14, 1940.

Jan. 29, 1938-Jan. 28, 1939.
 Mar. 26, 1938-Mar. 19, 1939.
 Sept. 11, 1938-Sept. 10, 1939.
 Feb. 13, 1938-Feb. 12, 1939.
 Year 1938.

Table 9 .- Number of stations at which computed traffic differs from actual traffic, under 3 assumed schedules; deviations by percentage groups

	Nu	mber of stati	ons
Deviation of computed daily traffic from true daily traffic, percent	Schedule I	Schedule II	Schedule III
0-0.9. 1-1.9 5-15. Over 15.	14 59 23 3	18 56 21 4	14 40 41
Total	99	99	95

creases travel costs. Both these factors operate to increase very greatly the unit cost of an item of information, and thus the cost of the whole survey.

One advantage of either schedule I or II, as compared with schedule III, is that both provide much greater information with respect to normal maximum traffic volume. The maximum values recorded under either of the first two schedules are during periods of from 8 to 24 hours. Maximum values are ordinarily too irregular in their occurrence to permit an accurate measurement of them by means of a single hour of observation.

Still another consideration in the decision with respect to the most valuable schedule for field operation is the probable accuracy of the estimate of the proportions of the various types of vehicles—foreign vehicles, heavy

trucks, busses, etc.—in the results obtained with various schedules. This question is difficult to investigate. partly because of the scarcity of data. To be sure, the automatic traffic recorder has now given a considerable sample in which is known the total number of vehicles during every hour of the year. However, it is clear that the number of foreign vehicles, for example, in proportion to total vehicles changes greatly throughout the year.

In summer foreign vehicles form 50 percent of the total traffic in some States. In the same areas in winter foreign vehicles are not over 15 percent of the total. In one State foreign vehicles are 14 percent of the total in December and 24 percent in August. The distinction between vehicle types cannot be made by the automatic traffic recorder, and detailed data classifying traffic throughout every day of a full year are available for but a small number of locations.

A limited amount of investigation of this problem at one station, considered to be typical of traffic found on most rural highways, is summarized in table 10.

Table 10 .- Classification of traffic by type of vehicle under various

11	Passer	iger cars	Trucks and	D	m - i - 1
Item	Local	Foreign	combi- nations	Busses	Total
Actual classification	78. 2	7. 1	14. 5	0. 2	100.0
A verage of 8 runs (6 a. m10 ρ. m.) 1.	69. 2	12.2	18.3	. 3	100.0
Average of 8 runs (24 hour) 1 24-hour weekday, Saturday, and Sun-	69. 2	11.9	18.7	. 2	100. (
day 2 24-hour weekday, Saturday, and Sun-	69. 8	12. 2	17. 8	. 2	100.
day 3. 24-hour weekday, Saturday, and Sun-	84. 6	3. 2	11.9	.3	100.
day 4. 16-hour (6 a. m10 p. m.) weekday,	76. 6	8.0	15. 2	. 2	100.
Saturday, and Sunday 4. 8-hour (8 a. m4 p. m.) weekday, Satur-	76. 2	8.4	15. 2	. 2	100.
day, and Sunday 4	73. 2	9.7	16.7	. 4	100.
Key station schedule (average of 5 runs)	78.0	6.8	15. 0	. 2	100.
A verage of 2 runs §	77.7	8.3	13. 7	. 3	100.

! In months of probable maximum and probable minimum traffic.
! February and August.
! May and November.
! February, May, August, and November.
! 4-hour weekday, Saturday, and Sunday counts each season; staggered 8 a. m.,
12 m. and 4 p. m. -8 p. m.

Other combinations, similar to those given in table 10, were examined and data for other stations were analyzed in the same manner. The tentative conclusion resulting from this analysis was that the standard key station schedule appears to give good results, but it is relatively a costly operation.

## METHOD OF ESTIMATING TRAFFIC WITHIN CITIES OUTLINED

The above discussion includes an examination of the principal types of schedules that are, or have been, used in extensive traffic surveys on rural roads. Other schedules have been used in this work, but nearly all of them represent but minor modifications in the above general types.

Within cities, use has been made of a method of extremely short counts which was given practical application in a survey conducted in the city of Amarillo, Tex., by members of the Engineering and Police Departments in cooperation with the Texas Highway Department. <sup>6</sup>

Theoretically, under proper traffic conditions, a count of 1 minute during each half hour or hour might be sufficient for the estimate of total traffic, but the chief

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Traffle Aids to Texas Municipalities, by R. O. Swain. The American City,

obstacle to this proposal was the loss of time involved by traveling between intersections. Finally, a 5-

minute observation period was selected.

Time loss between stations was eliminated by stationing observers on the tops of the taller buildings in Amarillo. From certain of these buildings as many as 32 intersections could be observed. This procedure permitted a recorder to observe as many as six intersections within a half-hour period, counting traffic at each intersection for a 5-minute period.

The method used was described as follows:

In estimating the hourly flow of traffic, the two 5-minute counts taken within a 1-hour period were added together and multiplied by 6. This method of short counts in towns and multiplied by 6. This method of short counts in tornis cities was determined to be as accurate as making full 8-hour cities was determined to be as accurate as making full 8-hour figures. In checking the accuracy against the full count, the error averaged approximately 3 percent. \* \* \* Intersections carrying more than 4,000 vehicles in a 12-hour period were within 3 percent of ac-

Study of reports and tests now available indicates that: (1) The key station schedule, or a schedule of the same general type, produces a larger proportion of results within practical limits of accuracy than do the other schedules; (2) the 40-hour schedule (No. III) previously described produces results with a considerably wider range of deviation from true values at more stations than either the blanket count control or the key station schedule; (3) the blanket count schedule produces results comparable with those from the key station schedule; (4) collection of information such as that obtained at loadometer and pit-scale stations is a difficult matter from the standpoint of travel time and practical scheduling of field parties, and is uneconomical when based upon a short count schedule; (5) the short count schedule produces insufficient information with respect to maximum traffic periods; (6) the key station schedule produces accurate results in the classification of traffic by vehicle types; (7) the short count schedule by 5-minute periods produces results within the limits of practical accuracy and is useful in city traffic surveys, if the time loss and cost of travel can be reduced by stationing observers on tall buildings from which several intersections can be observed.

## COMPOSITION OF TRAFFIC ANALYZED

Further analysis with respect to certain of these conclusions will be greatly facilitated by the accumulation of automatic traffic recorder data. Certain data are now available from vehicle classification counts taken throughout 1939 at 352 automatic traffic recorder stations located in 39 States. These data are of assistance in forming conclusions with respect to schedule selection.

The total traffic was separated by type of vehicle by means of classification counts taken at intervals The number throughout the year at the recorder sites. of vehicle classification counts in some States is small and, in some instances, it was necessary to supplement them by classification data obtained in years other than However, the proportions of the various types of vehicles change slowly from year to year, and the inaccuracy in the number of vehicles by type is slight.

Two hundred and ninety-four of these stations were located on the State highway systems, and 58 were located on local roads. An examination of the data discloses significant differences between the characteristics of traffic on these two classes of highway. parison of the results of the automatic traffic recorder operation with gasoline consumption indicates that the recorders furnish a measure of traffic representative of the country as a whole and, in States which are operating a large number of recorders, representative of traffic changes.

In two States the classification of vehicles was not as detailed as that reported by the other States, so that the discussion which follows applies only to the results of operation at 334 stations (276 on State routes, 58 on

local roads) in 37 States.

The proportion of foreign traffic using State highways varies widely among the States, and is affected by two major influences: (1) The geographical location and size of the State; (2) the amount of recreational traffic that is attracted to the State as compared with the amount of local traffic. It is probable that in few States are the automatic traffic recorders sufficient in number so that, if manual operations were made at each location, representative averages of the amount of foreign travel would be obtained. In Florida, which attracts large numbers of tourists, foreign cars measured at 10 traffic recorders were nearly 40 percent of the total traffic. Nevada attracts a small amount of tourist travel, but, because of its geographic location adjacent to the Pacific Coast States, foreign travel at 11 recorders in Nevada was found to be nearly 40 percent of the total. Near the other extreme is Texas, in which foreign travel was slightly more than 10 percent, measured at 18 traffic Texas attracts a small amount of tourist recorders. traffic relative to its total traffic and is not crossed much by foreign vehicles en route to other States.

For all States, the percentage of foreign vehicles measured at automatic traffic recorders was 21.08 on State highways, and 1.72 on local routes, a ratio of

more than 12 to 1.

Bus traffic was found to be less than 1 percent (0.88 percent) of traffic on State highways and negligible in amount upon local routes although, because of the low volume of travel on local routes, it amounted to 1.72 percent of the total. Busses are predominantly local vehicles; 14 out of 15 busses traveling State highways carry tags of the State in which they operate, and bus travel on local routes is almost entirely by local vehicles.

Heavy trucks (those with rated capacities of 5 tons, or more) use the highways but slightly more than do They were found to be 1.01 percent of all vehicles measured at automatic traffic recorder stations, and nearly all were found on State highways. Eleven percent of heavy trucks counted were foreign vehicles

as against 7 percent of the busses.

While the foregoing statement about the number of heavy trucks is true with regard to totals, an inspection of the detailed data discloses concentrations of heavy trucks much greater than those of busses. At several of the recorders located in California, Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Pennsylvania, heavy trucks averaged upwards of 100 per day during 1939 and reached 667 per day at stations 8 and 19 in Connecticut. At the single station for which data were available in Illinois, heavy trucks averaged 270 per day, while bus traffic at this station was but 13 per day.

A study of data for individual stations indicates a slight tendency toward increase in the proportion of heavy trucks with increase in volume of total traffic;

Traffic Aids to Texas Municipalities, by R. O. Swain. The American City,

i. e., the percentage of heavy trucks tends to increase with an increase in the total number of vehicles using a route. In contrast, the percentage of foreign vehicles decreases generally with an increase in the total number of vehicles, although this tendency is not sharply marked.

From traffic counter records it is now possible to measure the seasonal variation in traffic volume during 1939 upon State and local routes, as indicated in table 11. Seasonal variation is similar on the two classes of routes, although the travel peak is earlier and higher on the State routes. The seasonal peak on State highways is in August, travel in that month exceeding that of the average month by nearly 24 percent. Travel on local routes is greatest in September and is about 17 percent greater than in the average month.

Table 11.—Seasonal variation in total motor-vehicle traffic on State highways and local roads

Month	Average da	ily traffic	Percentage mon	
Month	State highways	Local routes	State highways	Local routes
January February	1,608 1,607	276 245	75. 68 75. 63	80. 00 71. 01
March	1,838	278	86. 50	80. 59
April	2, 018	311	94. 98	90.1
May	2, 165	335	101.89	97. 10
June	2, 306	358	108. 53	103. 7
July	2, 594	394	122.00	114. 2
August	2, 633	396	123. 93	114.7
September	2, 384	403	112. 20	116, 8
October	2, 233	390	105.09	113.0
November	2, 104	384	99.02	111.3
December	2,007	370	94.46	107. 2

## SEASONAL VARIATIONS IN TRAFFIC FLOW COMPARED

The automatic traffic recorder data have been of invaluable assistance in the solution of another problem—that of estimating annual traffic volume when the period that traffic was observed covered but a few hours. There are hundreds of thousands of miles of public highways upon which traffic volume is below 25 vehicles per day, and only a limited expenditure for traffic information is justified upon such routes. At many intermediate points between key stations upon routes of considerable traffic importance, traffic need be observed only during short periods of time to produce acceptable data with regard to variation of traffic. At such points a factor derived from known traffic patterns (frequently from the continuous data collected at automatic recorders) can be applied in estimating annual traffic.

These factors must be based upon traffic patterns that are typical and reasonably invariant over a period of time; that is, they must be typical, or representative, in order that they will apply to many stations. They must be reasonably invariant because, if sharp changes occur in seasonal patterns (or other patterns needed), the factors derived for use in one year will not produce accurate estimates of annual traffic when applied to traffic data for short periods of time in later years. The term "reasonably invariant" is used because experience indicates that absolute invariance

in patterns is not to be expected.

One measure of the invariance in seasonal traffic varia-

tion is presented in table 12, which shows seasonal variation of urban and rural traffic for each year from 1926 to 1931, inclusive, in Virginia. These figures are taken from graphs which accompany annual traffic flow maps prepared by the Virginia Highway Commission. Traffic data are available for the whole State highway system and are shown in the maps. The table indicates the remarkable lack of substantial change in the seasonal indices for both urban and rural traffic during these 6 years.

Other comparisons are shown in figures 19 to 23, inclusive, for Arkansas, Connecticut, Florida, Ohio, and Pennsylvania, respectively. In each of these States comparison has been made between the seasonal characteristics derived from former traffic surveys, with the seasonal characteristics of traffic at the automatic traffic recorder stations in each State operated during the year 1939. In each case the data are related to the average monthly traffic volume as 100 percent.

The number of traffic recorders operated in 1939 is much smaller than the number of stations from which the original seasonal indices were obtained. In the comparisons, data from States with the largest number of traffic recorders and an early traffic survey were used. Two of the States, Connecticut and Pennsylvania, each operated 22 traffic recorders during 1939; and in no State was the number of recorders less than 10.

Table 12.—Seasonal variations in traffic on Virginia State

[Monthly variation in percentage of average monthly traffic]

	19	26	192	27	19	28	19	29	13	30	193	31
Month	Urban	Rural										
January	73	73	73	73	73	73	73	73	72	72	72	72
	71	73	70	73	71	73	71	72	71	72	71	73
	73	98	73	98	74	98	73	98	73	98	74	98
April	95	102	95	102	95	101	95	102	95	102	95	102
	104	101	104	101	103	100	103	101	104	102	104	101
	106	98	106	98	106	98	105	98	105	98	105	98
July	112	99	112	99	112	99	112	99	112	99	112	99
August	123	135	124	135	123	134	124	134	124	134	123	134
September	115	118	115	118	114	118	115	118	115	118	114	118
October	112	102	112	102	112	102	112	102	112	102	113	102
November	111	100	111	100	111	102	111	102	111	102	111	102
December	105	101	105	101	106	102	106	101	106	101	106	101

<sup>1</sup> Sections of highways within a 10-mile radius of cities are designated as urban, others as rural, by Virginia Highway Commission.

The Arkansas comparison, figure 19, shows a very slight change in seasonal variation from 1934–35 to 1939. In Connecticut, figure 20, the changes in seasonal variation are small. In Florida, the indices are also fairly close

In Ohio the comparison of seasonal variation is between the years 1925 and 1939. Here the agreement is not so close as in the previous examples. And finally, in Pennsylvania, the comparison is for 1923–24 with 1939 and there is still greater disagreement between the indices than in Ohio. The data shown by these figures indicate that traffic volume has tended to be more evenly distributed throughout the year in the latter part of the last 15- to 17-year period.

In figure 23 the change from minimum to maximum values of the seasonal index in 1923–24 was from about 40 to 160, a ratio of 1 to 4. Corresponding values

in 1939 are from a minimum of 65 to a maximum of 133, a ratio of 1 to 2.

Thus, while there has been a considerable change in seasonal indices over the longer period, with the increased reliability of operation of motor vehicles, better roads, and snow removal over the whole highway system, during the latter part of the period under discussion the apparent change in seasonal variation has been small.

## TRAFFIC FLOW BETWEEN 7 A. M. AND 7 P. M. APPROXIMATELY 70 PER-CENT OF DAILY TOTAL

It may also be noted that this relative invariance in seasonal change during the latter part of the period is more or less independent of the particular type of seasonal variation under consideration. For example, Florida's seasonal traffic indices differ widely from those of Arkansas and even more widely from those of Connecticut. The minimum traffic in Florida is in September; whereas in Arkansas, it is in January; and in Connecticut, it is in February. Nevertheless the

change in seasonal variation is nearly the same for all

There are other patterns of traffic that are reasonably invariant in the sense in which that term has previously been used. Tables 13, 14, and 15 contain data from automatic recorders on State routes, divided between heavy and light traffic routes, and on local routes, together with the computed ratios of several period totals to total daily traffic. An examination of these tables discloses interesting and significant facts. For example, the percentage of the total traffic moving between 7 a. m. and 7 p. m. is 71.9 for all routes and by classified routes is:

											,	Perce	nt
15	State	routes,	heav	y traffic	 	 		 - 45	 	_		71.	0
21	State	routes,	light	traffic	 	 	 	 			 _	75.	8
												78.	1

R. O. Swain, in the article from The American City previously referred to, states:

That hourly traffic flow also cuts certain patterns is another Cherniack theory which may be applied to Texas traffic. Of value in this connection is the movement of motor-vehicle traffic

Table 13.—Traffic by hourly periods at automatic recorder stations, State routes, heavy traffic, 1939

		(T) - 4 - 1		Volur	ne by time of	f day			Percenta	age of total	volume	
State	Station No.	Total yearly volume	6 a. m. to 2 p. m.	2 p. m. to 10 p. m.	10 p. m. to. 6 a. m.	8 a. m. to 4 p. m.	7 a. m. to 7 p. m.	6 a. m. to 2 p. m.	2 p. m. to 10 p. m.	10 p. m. to 6 a. m.	8 a. m. to 4 p. m.	7 a. m. to 7 p. m.
Massachusetts	$   \left\{     \begin{array}{c}       1 \\       8 \\       2 \\       17   \end{array}   \right. $	1, 045, 290 2, 110, 370 1, 365, 076 2, 949, 154	357, 007 801, 639 475, 784 1, 014, 094	558, 993 1, 040, 069 624, 939 1, 396, 555	129, 290 268, 662 264, 353 538, 505	438, 746 966, 815 590, 833 1, 194, 075	720, 648 1, 490, 998 901, 065 1, 913, 666	34, 2 38, 0 34, 8 34, 4	53. 5 49. 3 45. 8 47. 3	12. 3 12. 7 19. 4 18. 3	42. 0 45. 8 43, 3 40, 5	68. 70. 66. 64.
Florida Michigan Louisiana	$   \left\{ \begin{array}{c}     10 \\     13 \\     676 \\     14   \end{array} \right. $	1, 260, 823 658, 659 1, 265, 045 1, 109, 565	548, 867 274, 331 490, 464 463, 276	576, 310 316, 150 623, 114 516, 364	135, 646 68, 178 151, 467 129, 925	657, 113 313, 335 596, 616 543, 593	961, 999 493, 356 912, 106 830, 583	43. 5 41. 6 38. 8 41. 8	45. 7 48. 0 49. 2 46. 5	10. 8 10. 4 12. 0 11. 7	52. 1 47. 6 47. 2 49. 0	76. 74. 72. 74.
Missouri	9 10 11 10	1, 879, 116 510, 302 3 1, 944, 663 1, 200, 884	704, 713 228, 814 809, 980 495, 714	930, 552 237, 471 924, 853 585, 353	243, 851 44, 017 209, 830 119, 817	827, 618 262, 527 945, 578 578, 385	1, 305, 289 401, 863 1, 452, 261 892, 854	37. 5 44. 9 41. 6 41. 3	49. 5 46. 5 47. 6 48. 7	13. 0 8. 6 10. 8 10. 0	44. 0 51. 4 48. 6 48. 2	69. 78. 74. 74.
OregonCalifornia	$\left\{\begin{array}{cc} 2\\ 5\\ 10 \end{array}\right.$	337, 721 289, 015 1, 399, 962	148, 001 119, 347 538, 271	150, 424 142, 217 619, 621	39, 296 27, 451 242, 070	183, 120 153, 775 657, 227	256, 884 225, 398 960, 344	43. 8 41. 3 38. 4	44. 6 49. 2 44. 3	11. 6 9. 5 17. 3	54. 2 53. 2 46. 9	76. 78. 68.
Total		19, 325, 645	7, 470, 302	9, 242, 985	2, 612, 358	8, 909, 356	13, 719, 314	38.7	47. 8	13. 5	46, 1	71.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Feb. 18, 1938-Feb. 17, 1939.

Table 14.—Traffic by hourly periods at automatic recorder stations, State routes, light traffic, 1939

		Total		Volum	ne by time of	day			Percenta	age of total	volume	
State	Station No.	yearly volume	6 a. m. to 2 p. m.	2 p. m. to 10 p. m.	10 p. m. to 6 a. m.	8 a. m. to 4 p. m.	7 a. m. to 7 p. m.	6 a. m. to 2 p. m.	2 p. m. to 10 p. m.	10 p. m. to 6 a. m.	8 a. m. to 4 p. m.	7 a. m. to 7 p. m.
ArizonaArkansas	5 7 11 607 13	72, 311 63, 629 100, 559 154, 537 1 54, 938	31, 060 30, 821 42, 729 65, 870 29, 262	35, 688 28, 739 50, 124 74, 135 22, 097	5, 563 4, 069 7, 706 14, 532 3, 579	38, 860 34, 725 52, 483 81, 364 31, 850	58, 239 51, 509 77, 861 118, 994 46, 445	43. 0 48. 4 42. 5 42. 6 53. 3	49. 3 45. 2 49. 8 48. 0 40. 2	7. 7 6. 4 7. 7 9. 4 6. 5	53. 7 54. 6 52. 2 52. 7 58. 0	80. 81. 77. 77. 84.
Minnesota Missouri Montana Nebraska	171 174 7 A-7 A-3	<sup>2</sup> 91, 365 <sup>3</sup> 107, 561 212, 287 173, 345 77, 735	36, 512 52, 349 91, 694 65, 897 32, 381	44, 943 49, 145 103, 239 89, 974 38, 198	9, 910 6, 067 17, 354 17, 474 7, 156	46, 443 60, 716 109, 796 85, 732 39, 365	66, 759 85, 521 165, 286 128, 910 59, 004	40. 0 48. 7 43. 2 38. 0 41. 7	49. 2 45. 7 48. 6 51. 9 49. 1	10. 8 5. 6 8. 2 10. 1 9. 2	50. 8 56. 4 51. 7 49. 5 50. 6	73. 79. 77. 74. 75.
Nevada New Hampshire Oklahoma Pennsylvania Rhode Island	114 3 8 7 3	83, 728 178, 359 292, 276 4 130, 672 118, 034	35, 063 78, 442 118, 045 50, 721 42, 640	41, 519 88, 170 143, 160 68, 134 63, 706	7, 146 11, 747 31, 071 11, 817 11, 688	43, 385 98, 509 143, 739 58, 975 54, 334	65, 096 141, 225 217, 263 93, 890 84, 617	41. 9 44. 0 40. 4 38. 8 36. 1	49. 6 49. 4 49. 0 52. 1 54. 0	8. 5 6. 6 10. 6 9. 1 9. 9	51. 8 55. 2 49. 2 45. 1 46. 0	77. 79. 74. 71. 71.
South Carolina	8 9 305	244, 745 287, 269 180, 932 258, 738 71, 984 157, 409	101, 309 113, 812 68, 411 111, 994 30, 552 69, 344	114, 861 140, 050 95, 733 122, 549 35, 312 76, 527	28, 575 33, 407 16, 788 24, 195 6, 120 11, 538	120, 267 136, 034 81, 180 133, 345 38, 070 85, 479	179, 797 206, 308 132, 950 199, 005 56, 209 125, 615	41. 4 39. 6 37. 8 43. 3 42. 4 44. 1	46. 9 48. 8 52. 9 47. 4 49. 1 48. 6	11. 7 11. 6 9. 3 9. 3 8. 5 7. 3	49. 1 47. 4 44. 9 51. 5 52. 9 54. 3	73. 71. 73. 76. 78. 79.
Total		3, 112, 413	1, 298, 908	1, 526, 003	287, 502	1, 574, 651	2, 360, 503	41.7	49.0	9.3	50, 6	75

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Oct. 29, 1938-Oct. 28, 1939.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Feb. 25, 1939-Feb. 24, 1940.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Dec. 17, 1938-Dec. 16, 1939.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Aug. 6, 1938-Aug. 5, 1939.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Aug. 20, 1938-Aug. 19, 1939.

<sup>4</sup> Oct. 1, 1938-Sept. 30, 1939.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Mar. 18, 1939-Mar. 17, 1940.

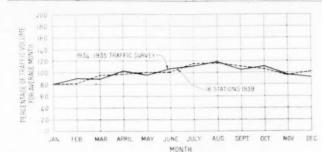


FIGURE 19.—CHANGES IN SEASONAL VARIATION OF TRAFFIC FLOW IN ARKANSAS.

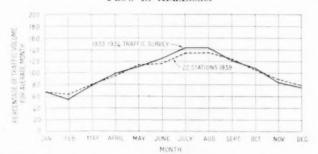


FIGURE 20.—CHANGES IN SEASONAL VARIATION OF TRAFFIC FLOW IN CONNECTICUT.

between 7 a. m. and 7 p. m. Between these "daylight" hours, Cherniack figures show that approximately 70 percent of the traffic moves in both rural and urban areas. On Texas highways, according to data taken from the highway planning survey's 20 automatic traffic recorders, this "daylight" percentage is 73.23.

Thus the data shown in these tables agree with results obtained elsewhere. It is also significant that the proportion of traffic moving during daylight is greater on the local routes (78.1 percent) as compared with the proportion on heavily traveled State routes (71.0 percent).

Traffic during the period from 10 p. m. to 6 a. m. on the various classes of routes is 12.7 percent of the full 24-hour traffic, and is classified by routes as follows:

		Percen	ŧ
State routes, heavy traffi	ic	. 13. 5	5
State routes, light traffic		9. 3	3
Local routes		7 3	\$

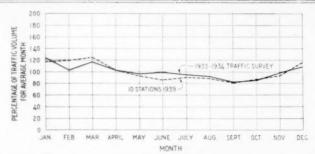


FIGURE 21.—CHANGES IN SEASONAL VARIATION OF TRAFFIC FLOW IN FLORIDA.

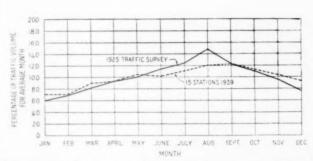


FIGURE 22.—CHANGES IN SEASONAL VARIATION OF TRAFFIC FLOW IN OHIO.

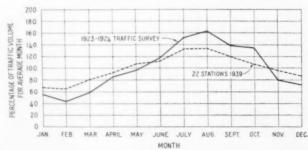


FIGURE 23.—CHANGES IN SEASONAL VARIATION OF TRAFFIC FLOW IN PENNSYLVANIA.

Table 15 .- Traffic by hourly periods at automatic-recorder stations, local routes, 1939

		FD - 4 - 1		Volum	ne by time o	f day			Percenta	age of total	volume	
State	Station No.	Total yearly volume	6 a. m. to 2 p. m.	2 p. m. to 10 p. m.	10 p. m. to 6 a. m.	8 a. m. to 4 p. m.	7 a. m. to 7 p. m.	6 a. m. to 2 p. m.	2 p. m. to 10 p. m.	10 p. m. to 6 a. m.	8 a. m. to 4 p. m.	7 a. m. to 7 p. m.
Arkansas Georgia Iowa Kentucky Maryland Minnesota	10 2 609 611 4 8 169 178	74, 190 41, 156 34, 114 23, 356 105, 911 127, 563 149, 477 43, 396	36, 487 18, 965 15, 051 11, 810 48, 342 58, 386 25, 646 21, 171	33, 926 19, 958 16, 377 10, 218 49, 544 58, 588 19, 960 19, 910	3, 777 2, 233 2, 686 1, 328 8, 025 10, 589 3, 871 2, 315	40, 599 21, 575 18, 039 14, 221 52, 402 63, 817 27, 970 24, 388	60, 699 33, 702 26, 314 19, 586 82, 129 95, 230 38, 409 34, 898	49. 2 46. 1 44. 1 50. 6 45. 6 45. 8 51. 8 48. 8	45. 7 48. 5 48. 0 43. 7 46. 8 45. 9 40. 4 45. 9	5. 1 5. 4 7. 9 5. 7 7. 6 8. 3 7. 8 5. 3	54. 7 52. 4 52. 9 60. 9 49. 5 50. 0 56. 5 56. 2	81. 8 81. 9 77. 1 83. 9 77. 8 74. 7
Montana North Carolina. Ohio. South Dakota Texas. Wisconsin.	A-2 5 5 105A 22 19	49, 019 <sup>3</sup> 51, 653 47, 332 86, 127 <sup>3</sup> 29, 887 66, 841	19, 449 22, 429 22, 701 35, 792 13, 218 27, 836	25, 801 26, 259 22, 226 42, 478 14, 692 32, 600	3, 769 2, 965 2, 405 7, 857 1, 977 6, 405	24, 976 27, 054 27, 681 43, 298 15, 530 32, 843	37, 969 41, 559 38, 701 65, 770 23, 754 49, 750	39. 7 43. 5 48. 0 41. 6 44. 2 41. 6	52. 6 50. 8 47. 0 49. 3 49. 2 48. 8	7. 7 5. 7 5. 0 9. 1 6. 6 9. 6	51. 0 52. 4 58. 5 50. 3 52. 0 49. 1	77. 80. 81. 8 81. 8 76. 4 79. 8
Total		830, 022	377, 283	392, 537	60, 202	434, 393	648, 470	45. 4	47.3	7.3	52.3	78. 1
Grand total, tables 13, 14, and 15.		23, 268, 080	9, 146, 493	11, 161, 525	2, 960, 062	10, 918, 400	16, 728, 287	39.3	48. 0	12.7	46. 9	71.5

Thus, the percentage of total traffic carried during the period from 10 p. m. to 6 a. m. for local routes is only half that for heavily traveled State routes.

The percentages of the total daily traffic shown in tables 13, 14, and 15 indicate that the 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. period is the best 8-hour period from the standpoint of uniformity of results for light-traffic routes, whether these routes be State highways or local routes. Records for 86 percent of the local routes vary less than 5 percent from the average during that 8-hour period, as compared with 81 percent for the light-traffic routes and 66 percent for the heavy-traffic routes on the State highway system.

These "reasonably invariant" ratios provide a measure of the accuracy of estimates of total yearly traffic volume made from traffic samples taken during relatively short periods of observation. The methods of deriving factors and their application have previously

been discussed in PUBLIC ROADS.

The results of automatic traffic recorder operations permit an analysis of the trends of traffic and, as the record accumulates, will be of increasing value for this purpose. As indicated in table 1, in 1937 there were 199 recorders in operation. However, not all of these were operated for the full year. While the record is now rather short, it may be stated that over this period the percentage increases in traffic at all stations closely approximate the increase in gasoline consumption.

It seems likely that the traffic data might provide a measure of business activity, both in general and for small areas or regions. The fact that both trucks and passenger cars are in the stream of traffic means that the data reflect business traffic as well as pleasure or recreational traffic. And since from 80 to 85 percent of all trips outside city limits are less than 20 miles in length,8 local characteristics must be well represented in the data. These characteristics are essential in an index of regional business activity and, properly weighted, should combine to provide equally good indices of national business activity.

The chief value of knowing the trends of traffic is their usefulness in estimating future traffic. When it is recalled that many of the elements of the highway have a long life and that some of them, structures such as bridges for example, frequently require large expenditures, the importance of an estimate of future

traffic is apparent.

The traffic estimate also provides a basis for estimating future highway income and thus permits the setting up of a rational budget for highways. The more accurate and representative the traffic trend, the more dependable and useful will be future plans of improvement. The automatic recorders furnish a volume of data covering a wide-spread area that are more accurate and more useful in trend analysis than any previously gathered.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Highway Traffic Analysis Methods and Results, by L. E. Peabody. PUBLIC ROADS, vol. 10, No. 1, March 1929.

Preliminary Results of Road-Use Studies, by R. H. Paddock and R. P. Rodgers, PUBLIC ROADS, vol. 20, No. 3, May 1939.

# CURRENT STATUS OF UNITED STATES WORKS PROGRAM HIGHWAY PROJECTS

(AS PROVIDED BY THE EMERGENCY RELIEF APPROPRIATION ACT OF 1935)

			COMPLETED		UNDE	UNDER CONSTRUCTION		APPROVE	APPROVED FOR CONSTRUCTION	7	BALANCE OF FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR
3	APPORTIONMENT	Estimated Total Cost	Works Program Funds	Miles	Estimated Total Cost	Works Program Funds	Miles	Estimated Total Cost	Works Program Funds	Miles	PROJECTS
	\$ 4,151,115 2,569,841 3,352,061	\$ 4,224,796 3,172,141 3,366,371	\$ 4,131,250 2,531,293 3,333,924		\$ 19,864 38,548 18,137	\$ 19,864 38,548 18,137	1.0				
	7,747,928	8,893,122 3,300,163 1,570,314	7,747,928 3,182,248 1,394,591			396.461	ē.				\$ 15,047
	900, 310 2, 597, 144 4, 988, 967	878, 199 2, 641, 713	842,562 2,550,786 4,586,851		46,358 270,655	46,358 270,655	2.8	#86,224	\$ 66,224		57,746
	8,694,009	2,346,077 9,073,672 5,635,125	8,694,009								
	4.994.975	5.356.873 4.961.177	401 086 4	-	3,899	2,560	7.4.				2,680
	1,676,799	3,271,662	1,676,799			29,470					Care
	3,262,885	1,822,945 4,249,700	3,184,283		19,328	19,321	5	market and the second			7,395
	5.277.145	6,516,457	5.272.746		B. 399	P. 399					
	3,457,552 6,012,652	3,448,631	3,438,032					19,519	19,519		
	3,670,739 2,243,074 945,895	3,962,855 2,423,114	3,826,572 2,243,074	110.2	31,896	31,896	5	la sche	P P P	0	12,272
	3, 129, 805	3,337,869	3,073,505 2,869,041	25.7		146,94	,				9,353
	11.046.317 4.720.173 2.867.245	11,054,928 4,800,532 2,921,362	10.543,474 4,720,173 2,867,245	283.5		318,258	5.	51,000	316.31	0	41,733
	1,580,670 3,038,642 9,347,797	1,097,039 4,862,779 3,218,985	7,555,755 4,580,670 3,036,134 9,061,828	200-1-0-2	115,062	115,062		198	61 965	9	2,508
	2,702,012 2,702,012	1,113,526 3,046,557	2,693,440 2,693,440	250.5		8,572					
	11.989.350 2.067.154	13.141.777	11,989,350 2,067,154	153.0							
	3,652,667 3,026,161	1,077,392	3,617,651	5.85 5.7.2	20,268	20,268					14,748
	2,231,412 4,623,884 2,219,155	2,535,594 5,317,867 2,227,966	2, 197, 783 4, 823, 864 2, 219, 155	100.5 343.6 155.0							33,629
District of Columbia Hawaii	986,033	950,000	949,496								

# CURRENT STATUS OF UNITED STATES WORKS PROGRAM GRADE CROSSING PROJECTS

	BALANCE OF	Goods ABLE FOR Comings PROGRAMMED PROGRAMMED PROJECTS and by Signed wite wite a file of the company of the comp	\$ 21,125	9,897	11,212 92,457 1,061,787	6,282	717,117	14 5,603	132,553	3 23,443			22,236	497,367		10,029	114,358	17,217	1 147,224	3 82,724	
	NUMBER	A STATE OF THE PERSON NAMED IN			cu																
CTION	Z	Contract		-	a	e -		2							-	-					
APPROVED FOR CONSTRUCTION		Works Program Funds		\$ 125, but	111,356	31,266		158,498		7,460				34,140	357,000	115,846		10,842	7,000	16,362	
APPRO		Estimated Total Cost		\$ 129,320	111,356	31,266		158,498		7,460				14.140	388,062	115,846		10,842	7,000	18,026	
		1 HH:								eu				+						7	
	NUMBER	1000			O.	a			-		-			-			-	-			
NO	Z	Constitution of the second	eu	ro-			-		-		eu .					-		9	-		
UNDER CONSTRUCTION		Works Program Funds	\$ 38,395	164, 828	66.726 180,144	128,000	120		136,962	k,780	186,939	189.31	79.757	255, 446	126.546	M66.261	6,781 22,381	91,718	#8.99 #0.603	27,681	-
5		Estimated Total Cost	\$ 38,395	390,358	180,126	128,000	160.064		145,395	M.780	186,939	18,664	59.757	258,848	126.596	1909	22,381	91,718	62,998 \$0,603	27,681	- COM
-		11111	50 - 10	25	23	161	100 to	.3	5 8	28	2	7		183	*	- NO	24	E.	82=	~ <u>g</u>	
	NUMBER	3]31	04 40	10 mg	ing	en o ñ	0-=	m.s.	** 01		900	~	0-	25	W 10	ひしめ	work	ພັບ-	-23	at to	
	N		420	280	ಌ೩ತ	£ 5 3	500 0	22	223	3 8	300	5	ನೆ ವಿ	242	22	3 = 6	- 2re	3 2 2	으击	2 E	-
COMPLETED		Works Progress Funds	\$ 4,013,492 1,217,704 3,529,424	2.39.638	2,666,700	1,643,213 10,172,902 4,997,797	5.546.962	3.000 1.000	3,987,617	180.79	3.369.50	803,600	3,901,833	18. 88 JA	3, 194, 536	2, 324, 175	8,893,817	3,724, 802	3,537,065	8,595,213	
		Estimated Total Cost	\$ 4,077,966 1,303,815 3,539,943	2. 597. 881 1. 593. 553	2.693.138 3.652.003	10,465,453	5.675.90	3,086,514	1,953,573 4,012,863 7,840,114	3,216,129	3, 428, 924	840, 475	3,927,039	11.10.11	5.25.591	5,090,350 8,392,554	3,002,428	10,585,942	3,731,626	5.038.188	T Ship conte
		APPORTIONMENT	\$ 4,034,617 1,256,099 3,574,060	7. 466. 362 2. 631. 567	418, 239 8, 827, 883 4, 895, 949	10,307,184	5, 246, 258	3,213,467	4, 210, 833 6, 765, 197	3.241.475	3,556.41	\$22°,464	3,983,826	13.577.189	3,207,473	5,004,711 2,334,204 11,463,613	3,059,691	3,903,979	3,774,287	5,022,663	TAKE CAN I
		STATE	Alabama Arianna Arianna	California Colorado Connecticut	Delaware Florida Georgia	Idako Illimois Indiana	Iowa Kansas Kentucky	Louisiana	Massechusetts Michigan Minesch	Mississippi	Montana	New Hampshire	New Jersey New Mexico	New York	North Dakota Ohio	Oklahoma Oregon Pennsylvania	Rhode Island South Carolina South Dakota	Tennessee Teras Utab	Vermont Virginia Washington	West Virginia Wisconsin Wyoming	Section C As

## STATUS OF FEDERALAID HIGHWAY PROJECTS

## AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1940

	COMPLETED DU	DURING CURRENT FISCAL	AL YEAR	UNDER	DER CONSTRUCTION		APPROVED	ED FOR CONSTRUCTION	NO	BALANCE OF
STATE	Estimated Total Cost	Foderal Aid	Milles	Estimated Total Cost	Federal Aid	Miles	Estimated Total Cost	Foderal Ald	Miles	ABLE FOR PRO- GRAMMED PROJ- ECTS
Alabama Arizona Arkanasa	\$ 2,858,664 1,032,363 4,281,884	\$ 1,421,234 680,891 2,003,437	17.7	\$ 5,150,759 1,372,464 1,225,138	\$ 2,562,510	62.9	# 994,020 875,873	\$ 494,210	32.3	\$ 1,767,202
California Colornado Connecticut	2,009,290	1,103,155	186.8	8,243,310 2,142,320	1,260,359	20.3	547,420		43.0 65.0	100.445
Delaware Florida Georgia	2,365,696 2,365,696 2,950,486	1,178,660	62.5	1.952.893	968,618	59.4		572,006	2 2 2	2,016,396
Idabo Illinois Indians	5,317,527	2,629,572 2,114,095	187.4	1, 151, 993 7, 893, 692 6, 720, 664	3,946,481	141.2	2.698.300	1,349,150	82.9	1,393,069
Iowa Kanas Kentucky	5,204,137	1,725,962	285.5	5,926,103 2,899,237	2,981,814	361.1	808	357.016	169.1	2,676,133
Louislana Maine ' Maryland	1,183,855	586,339 647,254 411,500	16.0	12,095,285	3,096,630	40 8 5.00 8		620, 196 437, 122 253, 651	37.6	192,061
Massachusetts Michigan Minnesota	1,666,144 5,989,548 5,518,764	830,246 2,837,520 2,700,527	19.9 810.1	8,061,710 4,708,910	1,171,638	192.3		160,555	23.0	3,029,708
Misalsaippi Misacuri Montana	3,269,557 4,086,765	1,621,353	162.0	7,282,8347,816	3,396,411	353.6	1,015,400	1,859,852	122.1	2,489,791
Nebraska Nevada New Hampshire	3,253,463 1,399,393 1,445,362	1,620,730	381.6 74.6 36.4	5,210,812 1,182,681 416,295	2,506,645 1,030,030 206,110	1,8.9			198.3	587,190
New Jersey New Mexico New York	1,378,600 2,000,830 10,542,515		169.6	1,448,445	8,174,320 873,122 5,967,340	4. 5. E.			9.00	932,261
North Carolina North Dakota Ohio	3,874,928 1,849,256 4,635,036	1,936,027 994,635 2,317,158	179.5	4,698,892 2,611,958 11,954,352	2,433,660 1,457,832 5,952,982	216.0	2,566,896 7,591,170		217.0	
Oklahoma Oregon Pennsylvania	3,099,420	1,181,616	152.6	2,867,349 2,152,775 12,208,079	1,146,386	34.0			43.0	
Rhode Island South Carolina South Dakota	1,329,331	502, 165 640, 144 1, 767, 729	10.2 95.5 533.0	1,213,296 2,005,435 3,813,803	605,822 963,966 2,411,163	10.9 145.0			189.4	1,605,701
Tennessee Texas Utah	7,317,938		5.55	3,155,900 8,325,052 891,740	1,577,950 4,114,232 667,400	7.69.7 3.66.8 7.82.7			180.3	
Vermont Virginia Washington	1,985,813		70.58	621,508 4,069,045 2,711,360	306,946 1,929,063 1,447,035	15.9			6.5	
West Virginia Wisconsin Wyoming	1,956,930 5,222,868 1,770,996	974,878 2,554,057 1,107,603	179.1	2,834,444 1,998,464 950,175	989,335	57.6	1,379,066 781,748 347,489	587,410 374,103 822,114	22.8 14.1 4.49	
District of Columbia Hawaii Puerto Rico	550.699 116.159 137.846		0	147,418 683,726	947,850 785,205	10.2 7.8 7.			1.5	
TOTALS	143,910,886	13,872,565	4.416.9	204,332,269	100,614,516	6,222.2			2,254.7	74,009,336

# STATUS OF FEDERAL-AID SECONDARY OR FEEDER ROAD PROJECTS

## AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1940

	COMPLETED DUR	DURING CURRENT FISCAL YEAR	L YEAR	UNDE	UNDER CONSTRUCTION		APPROVED	APPROVED FOR CONSTRUCTION	7	FUNDS AVAIL
STATE	Estimated Total Cost	Federal Aid	Miles	Estimated Total Cost	Federal Aid	Miles	Estimated Total Cost	Federal Aid	Milles	CRAMMED PRO
Alabama Arisona	\$ 190,944	\$ 95,263	4.67	\$ 1,303,357	\$ 649,158	60.7	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	α. Ω	\$ 276,238 221,466 32,029
	K2K 196	121.771	17.3	432.069		7.1	168.435	100,050	6.1	643,78
California Colorado Consecticut	370.531	179.413	9.4	298, 599		0.80	186,639	56,307	2.6	122,16
Telaware			12.7	10,371		80.00				268, 12
Florida			15.6	10.313		63.7	363.156	161.578	37.0	1.000.2
delto			24.0	171,362		6.7		4,893	3.5	104,09
Illinois			20.3	1,035,750		28.5		131.550	16.5	104,11
			104.3	689,523		187.0		123,275	86.2	56,02
Kanses			6.9	900.860		1.91		93,832	55.2	1,128,00
rentuca y			10.0	199.072		14.9		163418	200	160.03
Maine			17.0	909.04		5.5	92	18,000	1	18.50
THE DESIGNATION OF THE PERSON			10.3	212.045		3.0				480.31
Michigan			112.3	347.480		84	590,520	288,230	41.2	292,24
1 lance south			10.6	717.352		36.0			14.3	435.8
Missouri			92.7	123,076		1.1			35.8	614,99
SORGEN SE			3.00	642.171		83.6			283	206.29
Nebraska Nevada			6.0	175.048		14.3				8.57
CAN EMILIPARIES			10.6	VIE.057		11.60				503.13
New Jersey			13.1	634,137		20	98,695	\$9.568	3.7	41,69
tew Tork			200.00	255.403		280	151,390	75,695	14.6	219.70
North Carolina North Dakota				169,224		13.0				1.914.6
thio			46.5	2,199,455		0.70	100,272	80,18	2.5	0//0
Oklaboma Oregon Pertuavivania	372,237	205.73	# 4 C	1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0		2 70	198.671	28.96.		161.5
Rhode Island South Carolina Courth Parcel	157.356		2.7.	173,632 263,600		1.1 2.43	504.867	185,200	1.84	16.07
- Cantenda	1		10.9	991.188		10.0	200 000		9	864.59
Texas	-		9.6	215,530		25.2	55,085	27.543	2.5	97.38
ermont			- 8	196,176		3.8	17.752	38.205	1.5	186.73
Washington	-		28.2	206.767		8.5	206, 471	110,400	23.9	126,11
Vest Virginia			16.7	123, 169		2 0	13,400	21,700	2.1	600
Wicconsin	-		10.00	153.530		N-1	369.473	141.70	10.1	00
District of Columbia Hawali Puerto Rico	123,425 275,662 42,960	137.588	# O M	2, 192 2, 192 259, 254		18.2	55,168	27.140	2.1	158.675
TOTALS		12.064.145	9 197 0	P1 Knk alsh	10 868 870	1. PKK. 9	7 120 542	1 117 600	6.69.0	931 669 41

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1941

## PUBLICATIONS of the PUBLIC ROADS ADMINISTRATION

Any of the following publications may be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. As his office is not connected with the Agency and as the Agency does not sell publications, please send no remittance to the Federal Works Agency.

## ANNUAL REPORTS

Report of the Chief of the Bureau of Public Roads, 1931.

Report of the Chief of the Bureau of Public Roads, 1933. 5 cents.

Report of the Chief of the Bureau of Public Roads, 1934, 10 cents.

Report of the Chief of the Bureau of Public Roads, 1935. 5 cents.

Report of the Chief of the Bureau of Public Roads, 1936.

Report of the Chief of the Bureau of Public Roads, 1937.

Report of the Chief of the Bureau of Public Roads, 1938.

Report of the Chief of the Bureau of Public Roads, 1939.

## HOUSE DOCUMENT NO. 462

Part 1 . . . Nonuniformity of State Motor-Vehicle Traffic Laws. 15 cents.

Part 2 . . . Skilled Investigation at the Scene of the Accident Needed to Develop Causes. 10 cents.

Part 3 . . . Inadequacy of State Motor-Vehicle Accident Reporting. 10 cents.

Part 4 . . . Official Inspection of Vehicles. 10 cents.

Part 5 . . . Case Histories of Fatal Highway Accidents.

Part 6 . . . The Accident-Prone Driver. 10 cents.

## MISCELLANEOUS PUBLICATIONS

No. 76MP . . The Results of Physical Tests of Road-Building Rock. 25 cents.

No. 191MP. . Roadside Improvement. 10 cents.

No. 272MP. . Construction of Private Driveways. 10 cents.

No. 279MP. Bibliography on Highway Lighting. 5 cents.

Highway Accidents. 10 cents.

The Taxation of Motor Vehicles in 1932. 35 cents.

Guides to Traffic Safety. 10 cents.

An Economic and Statistical Analysis of Highway-Construction Expenditures. 15 cents.

Highway Bond Calculations. 10 cents.

Transition Curves for Highways. 60 cents.

Highways of History. 25 cents.

## DEPARTMENT BULLETINS

No. 1279D . . Rural Highway Mileage, Income, and Expenditures, 1921 and 1922. 15 cents.

No. 1486D . . Highway Bridge Location. 15 cents.

## TECHNICAL BULLETINS

No. 55T . . . Highway Bridge Surveys. 20 cents.

No. 265T. . . Electrical Equipment on Movable Bridges.

Single copies of the following publications may be obtained from the Public Roads Administration upon request. They cannot be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents.

## MISCELLANEOUS PUBLICATIONS

No. 296MP. Bibliography on Highway Safety.

House Document No. 272 . . . Toll Roads and Free Roads. Indexes to PUBLIC ROADS, volumes 6-8 and 10-20, inclusive.

## SEPARATE REPRINT FROM THE YEARBOOK

No. 1036Y . . Road Work on Farm Outlets Needs Skill and Right Equipment.

## TRANSPORTATION SURVEY REPORTS

Report of a Survey of Transportation on the State Highway System of Ohio (1927).

Report of a Survey of Transportation on the State Highways of Vermont (1927).

Report of a Survey of Transportation on the State Highways of New Hampshire (1927).

Report of a Plan of Highway Improvement in the Regional Area of Cleveland, Ohio (1928).

Report of a Survey of Transportation on the State Highways of Pennsylvania (1928).

Report of a Survey of Traffic on the Federal-Aid Highway Systems of Eleven Western States (1930).

## UNIFORM VEHICLE CODE

Act I.—Uniform Motor Vehicle Administration, Registration, Certificate of Title, and Antitheft Act.

Act II.—Uniform Motor Vehicle Operators' and Chauffeurs'
License Act.

Act III.—Uniform Motor Vehicle Civil Liability Act.

Act IV.-Uniform Motor Vehicle Safety Responsibility Act.

Act V.-Uniform Act Regulating Traffic on Highways.

Model Traffic Ordinances.

A complete list of the publications of the Public Roads Administration, classified according to subject and including the more important articles in PUBLIC ROADS, may be obtained upon request addressed to Public Roads Administration, Willard Bldg., Washington, D. C.

## STATUS OF FEDERAL-AID GRADE CROSSING PROJECTS

## AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1940

	COMPLETED	LETED DURING CURRENT FISCAL YEAR	FISCAL Y	EAR		O.	UNDER CONSTRUCTION	NO			APPRO	APPROVED FOR CONSTRUCTION	UCTION			
			NE	NUMBER				NUN	NUMBER				di	NUMBER		BALANCE OF
STATE	Estimated Total Cast	Federal Aid		1111	ılışı:	Estimated Total Cost	Federal Aid	Consiste Control of Co	Course Services	Const.	Estimated Total Cost	Federal Aid	Crade Crossings Managed by Separa- tion or Refecation	Grada Grada Mrne- tures Re- condrast- ed	Grade Crossing: Protect- ed by Signals or Other- wise	PUNDS AVAILA ABLE FOR PROCRAMMED PROJECTS
Alabama Arizona Arkansas	\$ 28,328 192,342 558,358	\$ 28,326 184,976 558,213	ne	-	* ~	\$ 739.788 179.037			-	-	\$ 91,639 19,260 302,506	\$ 91.839 19,260 302,453			W.# 100	\$ 828,568 232,120 173,007
California Colorado Connecticut	439,428		* "	-	0	288,868	288,868	r-0	-		757.323	757,323			ž n	911.32
Delaware Florida Georgia	68,080 207,524	68,080 203,025	E to	-	200	126,685		w-0	-9	~	2,332	139,739		O.	- 1500	1.809.73
Idaho Ilinois Indina	1,316,578	1,251,451	IND P	- 0	223	1,658,356		<b>k-4</b>	-	٠ <u>٢</u> ٩	43,471 230,347 392,007	43,471 220,571 359,107		-	2.7=	04 860
lown Kansas Kentucky	453.405 687.637 573.093	390.966 667.530 572.549	3 0/10		22=	182,658 303,791 637,876	303,313	anr	-	<u>w</u> = -	173.571 535.580 382.102	172,562 535,580 343,702		-	504	1,076,739 727,701 240,666
Louisiana :	159.159	158.841		-	wa	132.646	132,646	n - n	- 04	-	15,600	15,600			N M	263
Massachusetts Michigan Minnesota	1,113,805	15,710	w w	- 00	20	1,009,381	1,009,381	- N 5	- 10.3	~0	90°040 16°907 120°707	89.740 16.907	-	-	#-	1.928.53 608.53
Mississippi Missouri Montana	1,206,369	1,206,369	no «	10	- 04	1,709,501	1,854,334	m rv -			74,000 222,144 9,155	137,076	-	eu .	# m	200
Nebraska Nevada New Hamoshire	25.05	228,986 30,569	-	-	20	109,892	109.892	Zu n	-		145,457	145,457	N -		50	36.58
New Jersey New Mexico New York	269,185	242,979	- N N P	w	40	596,798	175.247	nne	- 4	#	264,880	264,880	- 0	0	100	932.74 8.674
North Carolina North Dakota Ohio	478,532	478,469		vo	283	709,829	709.589 385.820 2.084, 190	r== 0	M W	~	173,490	173,490	ır	Cu .	3.	718,553
Oklaboma Oregon Pennsylvania	1.387.269	1,377.793	* w	- ~	87	2,021,009	197,981	€0 - \$		ev.	115,665 86,974 872,546	80.790 872,546	22		39	1,878,750 290,984 2,621,372
Rhode Island South Carolina South Dakota	129,470	129,175	.# 60	-	==	210, 359 106, 503 526, 394	210,359 106,503 527,534	-4	-	0,	261,042	260,442	~ ~		素	77,347 815,336 798,806
Tennessee Texas Ulah	1,271,717	266,909 25,354	EN =	N -	01-11	1,128,378	1,118,013	5 64	eu	25.2	162,270 437,480 100,989	153,270 360,020 100,989	2	-	0 50	1,567,057 1,635,493 220,805
Vermont Virginia Washington	150,174	149,598	n m	N -	500	565,853	576.290	<b>10.2</b>	- m	· cu	193,314	193,314	-	0 -	1 80 P	
West Virginia Wisconsin Wyoming	5,400	819,761	9	#	01-	303,002 452,980 560,905	299,552 423,971 560,904	at Prop		æ	118,450	116,890			- 4 0	956.310 1,262.972 166.634
District of Columbia Hawaii Puerto Rico	56,868	56,868	-		-	2,193 196,229 584,007	2,193 196,221 579,336	2 =			4,68t	4,684			-	176,92 290,31 414,85
TOTALS	20,021,617	19,638,103	176	7 04	1465	30,919,387	29,668,841	533	59	231	9,653,121	9,031,528	2	5	390	40,419,654